

Minutes

Board of Assessors

Room 200

Tuesday, March 19, 2024

5:00 PM

The meeting convened at 5:10 PM. Present were Jeffrey Marshall, chair, Mary Greendale and Stephen Wang. Staff: Kevin Rudden and Sherrie Bates.

1. Board members and staff discussed Boston Honey's request for a Wine and Malt Beverages license – currently pending before the Select Board – and the effect the business plans attached with the license application might have on the company's current Chapter 61A status.

This issue arose when Town Administrator Travis Ahern told staff about the application about an hour before the meeting. When staff informed him the property was under Chapter 61A status, Travis Ahern then asked staff to let him know if granting the license would affect the Chapter 61A status.

The boards discussion ended with Kevin Rudden and Sherrie Bates believing that the business plans presented to the Select Board – if carried out – would cause them to recommend the board cancel the Chapter 61A status. The staff planned to do more research, notify Travis Ahern, and send a letter to the property owner.

2. Stephen Wang made a motion, seconded by Jeffrey Marshall, to approve the regular session minutes and executive session minutes for the March 12, 2024 meeting. The motion carried 3-0-0.
3. Mary Greendale made a motion at 5:20 PM, seconded by Stephen Wang, to enter into an executive session to discuss confidential exemption applications and abatement applications, with the intent to return to public session. A roll call vote was taken, and the motion carried 3-0-0.

4. The board returned to public session at 5:40 PM. Stephen Wang made a motion, seconded by Mary Greendale, to ratify the actions taken during the executive session. The motion carried 3-0-0.
5. Kevin Rudden gave the board an update on pending projects:
 - The ARPA-funded Data Cloud mobile iPad project is approaching completion and the tablets are expected to be fully operational by the end of April;
 - Funding for replacing the CAMA system replacement is on the Annual Town Meeting warrant;
 - Mary Greendale will make recommendations to staff as they map out new assessing neighborhoods. Next, the full board will review and approve them. Staff will then run the new neighborhoods in parallel with the existing ones for Fiscal Year 2025 valuations. The new neighborhoods would be implemented in either FY25 or FY26.
 - The proposed exemption for affordable rental housing is still being researched and is not on the Annual Town Meeting warrant; and,
 - Funding for releasing outdated Chapter 61, Chapter 61A and Chapter 61B lien releases is on the warrant.
6. The board set April 2, 2024 for its next meeting.

Stephen Wang made a motion at 5:45 PM, seconded by Mary Greendale, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried 3-0-0.