

**Regular Session Minutes – Bedford, MA Select Board Meeting
Hybrid Participation Meeting (Zoom and Select Board Meeting Room)
July 10, 2023**

PRESENT: Chair Bopha Malone, Clerk Shawn Hanegan, Emily Mitchell, and Paul Mortenson

ALSO PRESENT: Colleen Doyle, Amy Fidalgo, Kerri Rufo (Town Manager’s Office); Ben Thomas (Finance Committee); Robin Steele (Recreation Commission); Mike Rosenberg (*The Bedford Citizen*); Alice Sun (Bedford Housing Patnership); Barbara Purchia (Cultural Council); Jane Patterson, Jin Wang, Frank Chen, Allen Che, Kalin Liu, Brian Covell, Xue Wang, Anna Collins, Erica Liu, Susan Schwartz, Young Li, Denise Chen, Bin Bao

Chair Bopha Malone called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Due to technical difficulties, the meeting started at 7:04 pm.

23-104 Boards and Committee Appointments and Reappointments (*taken out of order*)

1. Alice Sun (Reappointment to Bedford Housing Partnership)

Mr. Mortenson asked Ms. Sun a few questions about her past behavior on the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust regarding a staff member, which he was uncomfortable with. He asked her how she would handle a situation like that again.

Ms. Sun wanted to reassure the board that she did not use bad words. She stated that she was impatient because it was a request that she had made several times. She said that she would try to be more conscious and that she speaks honestly about facts.

Mr. Hanegan said that he appreciated Ms. Sun’s answer.

Ms. Mitchell said we can be mindful to respect the professionals that we have working for us.

Ms. Malone asked Ms. Sun her thoughts on the Select Board goal for Affordable Housing.

Ms. Sun answered with a lengthy response that she does believe in affordable housing and her goal is to provide this in a cost-effective way.

Mr. Hanegan moved that that the Select Board reappoint Alice Sun to Bedford Housing Partnership for a term ending June 30, 2026, and authorize the Town Manager to sign the reappointment letter on behalf of the Select Board. The motion did not receive a second.

Mr. Mortenson moved that the Select Board ask the Volunteer Coordinating Committee to find a new candidate for that position.

Ms. Mitchell seconded. The motion passed 3-1-0.

Materials: Board and Committee reappointment form 2023 Alice Sun (Reappointment to Bedford Housing Partnership)

23-103 Public Comment *(taken out of order due to technical difficulties)*

Jane Patterson, 20 Paul Revere Road : Ms. Patterson asked for clarification of the board's action regarding Ms. Sun.

Ms. Malone explained that this is public comment, not a time to answer questions. She let Ms. Patterson know that if she had any questions, she could reach out to the Town Manager's office.

Brian Covell, 124 North Road: Mr. Covell stated that he has had several correspondences with the Town Manager to discuss his longstanding concerns about the Bedford Police Department. Mr. Covell stated he does not wish to meet with the Town Manager and Town Counsel.

23-104 Boards and Committee Appointments and Reappointments *(taken out of order)*

1. Dan Hurwitz and John Campos III (Reappointments to Trails Committee)

Ms. Mitchell moved to reappoint Dan Hurwitz and John Campos III to the Trails Committee for a term ending June 30, 2024, and authorize the Town Manager to sign the reappointment letters on behalf of the Select Board. Mr. Hanegan seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

2. Sarah McGinley (School Committee Liaison Appointment to the Youth and Family Services Committee)

Mr. Mortenson moved that the Select Board appoint Sarah McGinley to the Youth and Family Services Committee for a term ending June 30, 2026, and authorize the Town manager to sign the appointment letter on behalf of the Select Board. Mr. Hanegan seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Materials: Board and Committee reappointment form 2023; Dan Hurwitz and John Campos III (Reappointments to Trails Committee) Sarah McGinley (Committee Appointment Liaison to the Youth and Family Services Committee)

23-105 Consent Agenda

Ms. Mitchell had some comments on the minutes, with proposed amendments.

Ms. Mitchell moved the consent agenda, with the minutes as amended. Mr. Mortenson seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Materials: Chapter 268A, Section 20b Exemptions; Mary Gallant, Seamus Harte, Aiden Wagner, Regular Session Minutes - June 26, 2023; One Day Alcohol Licenses-tapped Beer Truck July 19th & July 27

23-106 Town Manager's Report

Ms. Doyle asked the board to confirm a change the Select Board schedule, moving the December meeting dates to December 4 and December 18, with December 11 slated for the holiday party. Ms. Mitchell asked if the Capital Budget presentation would move to December 4th. Ms. Doyle confirmed with Ms. Fidalgo that it would.

The Select Board is invited to take a tour of the newly completed Police Station on either 7/24 & 7/31.

Fire Chief David Grunes announced that he will be retiring after 15 years of service on August 17. Ms. Doyle noted that she has begun the search process for an interim fire chief. The interim chief will shadow Chief Grunes for about a week before taking over completely. The search for a new permanent fire chief will wait until the new town manager is hired.

The Select Board expressed their gratitude for Chief Grunes's many years of service in Bedford. He will be greatly missed.

23-107 Liaison Reports

Ms. Mitchell reviewed each member's tally of liaison assignments:

Ms. Malone 8, Ms. Fleischman 10, Ms. Mitchell 10, Mr. Mortenson 9, Mr. Hanegan 6.

1. Trails Committee Liaison

Mr. Hanegan said that he would be happy to take on the Trails Committee liaison assignment.

2. Draft HATS letter re: Hanscom North Airfield

Ms. Mitchell reported on the recent HATS meeting, and asked the Select Board to collaborate on a letter to the governor from all four HATS Select Boards expressing concern about the North Airfield expansion and its conflict with the state's climate goals. The letter was drafted by a member of the Concord Select Board before HATS affirmed consensus on that narrow scope. Ms. Mitchell reviewed the areas of the letter that she would like to revise.

Ms. Hanegan moved that the Select Board endorse the changes Ms. Mitchell has proposed to the draft letter. Mr. Mortenson seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Ms. Mitchell meet with HFAC and they are working to go through points about the expansion project. Community Media Committee meet and they are working on what their options are about funding. The questions is would the Select Board like to draft a letter for additional funding for PEG access. The Select Board feels it would be helpful. Ms. Mitchell asked for a motion

The motion was moved by Mr. Hanegan and seconded by Mr. Mortenson. All in Favor 4-0-0

Ms. Mitchell reminded the Select Board that Cultural Council and HDC both meet on Wednesday night. Ms. Mitchell gave an update about the library's HVAC system. The bids are coming in higher than at the funding appropriated by Town meeting, and the Facilities Department is working with the designer and the library staff and trustees to determine the best option. The system upgrades may need to happen in stages, replacing the current aging boilers with ones that are Net Zero-ready but not fully electric yet. An option to save money on labor by closing the library for up to six months so work could proceed during normal business hours was not palatable to the trustees, who are concerned about the loss of patron services, especially during the fall and winter months.

Mr. Mortenson asked whether the project should be brought back to Town meeting. Ms. Mitchell said waiting for Town Meeting would not be advisable, as the system is already working on borrowed time .

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Ms. Mitchell wanted the Select Board to be aware of the issue, and affirmed that the Town wants to make sure that the project moves forward with minimal disruption to library services, while making progress toward our Net Zero goals. She will attend the trustees' meeting Tuesday night and will provide updates as she receives them.

Mr. Hanegan reported that the Planning Board discussed the potential of redevelopment of 49 Elm Street and the possible consideration of a center overlay district, to allow people living in that area an additional option for denser housing close to the center. They also address a potential for a two-family development. The Planning Board also received correspondence about the Carlisle Road LIP, which is expected to come back to the Housing Partnership next week and then the Planning Board.

Mr. Mortenson said that the Bicycle Committee was unable to make a quorum last week. He also met with the Taxation Aid Committee.

The Town Manager Search Committee has received 29 applications, and is hoping to narrow the field to seven candidates for the committee to interview. Mr. Hanegan asked about the timeline for interviews with the Select Board. Mr. Mortenson said that by the end of the month, they are hoping to identify four finalist candidates for the Select Board to interview.

Ms. Malone couldn't attend the Recreation Commission meeting, but was able to report on several items through the minutes. Memberships are down at Springs Brook Park, but they are seeing a need to expand the Adventures Away program. The department is offering CPR training to the counselors.

Materials: BEDFORD_SupportTemplate-1; Hanscom Letter to Governor DRAFT v2; Select Board - Liaison Assignments 2023-2024

Ms. Mitchell moved to adjourn. Mr. Hanegan seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by Kerri Rufo

| [Approved at the July 24, 2023 Select Board Meeting](#)