

100817 SCRIPT: FinCom Encore Hello, and welcome back to Wayland Weekly

Selectmen

The Selectmen's October 2nd meeting featured the swearing in of firefighter Nathaniel Bachman. Then they met with Public Works Board Chair Woody Baston to discuss policy for maintaining and plowing the 57 private roads in town. Private roads have been generally plowed in the winter since a decision back in the 1980's, pending a policy that was apparently never created. That changed in 2015 when the plowing stopped. One of the major concerns was safety for the plow drivers. Many of the private roads were dead ends or very narrow. But there's also a question of safety for residents who might need an ambulance or fire response. And several residents are handicapped and elderly. The Board of Public Works will establish a policy at their meeting on October 10th and bring it to the Selectmen for review. A history of the subject, compiled by a resident, is at our website: waycam.tv/buzz.

Then they met with Dave Watkins, Chair of the Finance Committee to discuss the Town's finances. This pertains to Moody's upcoming review of our Aaa bond rating, and steps being taken to improve the Town's financial reporting and processes. The list of capital projects submitted to the Selectmen on October 2nd totaled \$33million.

The Town Administrator has informed the Selectmen that appeals have been filed in both Land Court and to the ZBA regarding the Oxbow Meadows site plan. The matter is scheduled for October 10th with the ZBA. The Town Administrator has not signed the contract and has delayed finalization until mid-November. Then the Selectmen will need to decide whether it is in the town's best interest to take the risk to proceed with the project or wait until all appeals are settled.

Town Engineer Paul Brinkman updated the Selectmen on Rivers Edge, the proposed 200-unit housing development at the former septage facility. In a report at the end of September, he informed them that on August 14th, an amount of asbestos-containing material was found. That required reporting to MassDEP. As a result steps must be taken by the Town and the Developer to safely and cost effectively manage the situation. This will require extending the developer's time for Due Diligence, and also completion of the Land Development Agreement.

School Committee

On October 2nd the School Committee received an interim report from Weston and Sampson on using the old closed landfill SOUTH of Route 20, for school bus parking. No costs or detailed plans were included pending reaction from the town boards, but the report was described as "very promising." Chair Ellen Grieco said using the site would "clearly be the best option for the town." It would save money over the leasing option and avoid parking buses in residential neighborhoods.

While next steps are being decided, the Committee is moving towards recommending that the Selectmen lease the private space chosen off Route 20 at the Sudbury town line. The DPW director will work with the Mass Dept of Transportation and the site owner to resolve the site line issues raised by the traffic consultant. The buses need to move next summer, and the site, even if temporary, will be needed for at least two years. The Committee voted to recommend that the Selectmen sign a contract for the site contingent on an agreement acceptable to the traffic consultant.

The Committee is waiting hear from the Selectmen whether its stadium renovation planning article will be included in November's Special Town Meeting. That decision could be coming October 10th. But, serious planning can't begin until the School Committee decides whether to build a grass or artificial turf field. They hope to make that decision at their October 22 meeting.

Meanwhile, the Committee voted unanimously to co-sponsor the article with the Community Preservation Committee to swap and rebuild the tennis courts and the softball field at the high school.

They also voted to increase its capital improvement request for the high school wastewater treatment plant from \$125K to \$285K. The 5 year old plant has been having serious operational problems. The additional money would cover new ventilation and repairs to the chemical system. Operational management of the plant has only recently been changed.

Energy and Climate

Public Buildings Director Ben Keefe reported to the Energy and Climate Committee that the state is now evaluating proposals from LED streetlight suppliers for a bulk purchase for a number of towns, including Wayland. He believes that Wayland's lights will be converted by the end of the year.

And, two new Electric vehicles, Nissan Leaf's, have been delivered, and are now part of the town vehicle fleet. Work on Charging Stations at the Town Building parking lot are in progress.

Library

The Library Trustees are in the midst of two personnel searches. The one for the Library Director is ongoing and applications are being reviewed. A candidate for a Capital Campaign Consultant is not quite under contract but hopefully will be by the next Trustees' meeting later in October.

Regarding the \$10-million State Construction Grant, the Trustees have drafted and submitted an article for November's Special Town Meeting, but aren't yet sure that article will appear. That's because the Wayland Finance Committee has asked that all warrant articles requiring funding be postponed until Annual Town Meeting in April. So, they've requested an extension from the Mass. Board of Library Commissioners. If an extension is granted the article will be withdrawn and presented at next Spring's Annual Town Meeting.

(Update: Oct. 6: Extension Granted. Article will wait until April Town Meeting)

Meanwhile, the Library Planning Committee is holding a community-wide forum to share and compile ideas on new uses for the library building at 5 Concord Road. It's at 7 p.m. on Thursday, October 19, in the Large Hearing Room at Town Building. More information is posted at our website: waycam.tv/buzz.

Historic District Commission

Following a public hearing at their September 28th meeting, the Wayland Historic District Commission adopted new guidelines for all properties in the two local historic districts. Property owners as well as any interested persons, were invited. There were no comments and the Commission voted affirmatively to accept the guidelines. The new Guidelines and a diagram of the two districts are at our website: waycam.tv/buzz.

Recreation Commission

On September 25th the Recreation Commission held a public meeting to inform Town residents about their plans for a new artificial turf field at the Loker Conservation and Recreation land at the intersection of Route 30 and Rice Road. They are seeking design funds at November's Special Town Meeting.

The audience was comprised of both supporters and potential users of the new field, as well as a number of local residents, wary of losing another open space parcel to development. Resident concerns centered around four main issues: Overhead lighting spilling out into the neighborhood; traffic and parking in an already congested intersection with little or no on-street parking; drainage runoff increases where there is already a history of damp basements; and location of the field, which could overlap into the conservation portion, as currently proposed. There's a diagram of the site at our website: waycam.tv/buzz.

The Commission states that all of these concerns will be included in the design study. If they receive funding for design in November, and all goes well, they will ask for approval of construction funds at April's Annual Town Meeting. If approved, the field could be ready for play in the Fall of 2018.

Special Town Meeting

The Wayland Town Clerk has send a reminder that Special Town Meeting is on November 14 and 15, at the Wayland High School field house beginning at 7pm. Doors open at 6 pm. The last day to register to vote is November 4th. The Town Clerk's Office will be open from 9:00 A.M. until 8:00 P.M. on November 4th for voter registration. You can also register on line. That information is at our website: waycam.tv/buzz.

Our next show airs on October 15th. The subject is the Loker Artificial Turf Field warrant article for November's Special Town Meeting. Please join us. You'll find a more complete show schedule on our website. As well as a transcript of this program.

Remember, if you have a Town issue you'd like discussed on the Buzz... Call us, email us, or use the contact form on our website. Tell us what's on your mind, and what you think about the show.

I'm your host, Ken Isaacson. On behalf of the entire volunteer crew-and-guests, here at Wayland Weekly Buzz, thank you for watching.