

Approved 7/27/2022

Town of Chelmsford Select Board Minutes
Chelmsford Center for the Arts
1A North Road

Chelmsford, MA 01824

Regular Meeting MINUTES
June 13, 2022

Attending:

Ken Lefebvre, Vice Chair
George Dixon, Clerk
Mark Carota, Board Member
Patricia Wojtas, Board Member

Paul Cohen, Town Manager

Absent:

Virginia Timmins, Chair

Please note that all documents referenced in these minutes are on file at the Town Manager's Office, 50 Billerica Rd., Chelmsford, Mass. The meeting was recorded by Chelmsford Telemedia.

Vice Chair Lefebvre called the regular meeting to order at 5:45PM.

APPOINTMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF CHELMSFORD CENTER FOR ARTS

Town Manager Cohen introduced the new Executive Director of the Chelmsford Center for the Arts. Ms. Lexy Lattimore appeared before the Board and expressed her appreciation as a resident committed to the best interests of the community for the opportunity to serve as Executive Director.

MOTION: by Board Member Carota to approve the appointment of Lexy Lattimore as the Executive Director of the Chelmsford Center for the Arts. Seconded by Board Member Dixon.
Motion carries 4-0, unanimous.

The Board recessed at 5:55PM.

LISTENING SESSION ON IMPROVEMENTS TO THE TOWN CENTER

Vice Chair Lefebvre called the listening session portion of the meeting to order at 6:00PM. He stated that the purpose of the session was to hear public input on potential improvements to the Town Common and Town Center and the general view of what the community wants to see in the Town Common and Town Center. No emails had been sent to the Select Board prior to the meeting. Vice Chair Lefebvre then invited the public to approach the microphone.

Susan Gates, former Executive Director of the Chelmsford Center for the Arts, stepped forward to the microphone. Ms. Gates commented that there was no easy access to the Town Common from the Center for the Arts. She referenced the visit from state representatives that found the crosswalk down the street as inadequate. Ms. Gates suggested that a crosswalk be installed directly in front of the building complete with blinking lights on the pavement for easy access to the Town Common.

Vivian Merrill of the Holiday Decorating Committee stepped forward to the microphone. She suggested that more electrical outlets be installed on the Common to allow for more lighting. She also suggested that the health of the trees be assessed with new plantings if necessary.

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Brenda Lovering, Chair of the Historic District Commission, stepped forward to the microphone. She suggested that more trees/evergreens be planted along Westford and Academy Streets. She also suggested the installation of a bench in front of the new barber shop to replace moveable chairs that are sometimes set up in front of the shop. If the Town was pursuing the procurement of the parking lot behind Odd Fellows Hall, Ms. Lovering asked that proper lighting be kept in mind in consideration of neighboring homes. Additionally, she asked that permits for signage across Town, i.e. festivals and farmers market, etc., be limited to the duration of fourteen days per sign.

Tom Gazda, Clerk of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, stepped up to the microphone. He suggested that bicycle racks be installed on the Common. He also stated that the vacant site of the old Mobile station has been an eyesore for many years and suggested that if the Town were to purchase the property that it be converted to a park area and not to be utilized as a commercial site. Mr. Gazda noted that following work done in the Center Village, the road was not restored to its original condition and asked that the area be restored to proper pavement.

Linda Prescott of the Historical Commission stepped up to the microphone. She asked that more thought be given to the beautification of the Center with the addition of more green plantings and the display of colorful flags. She referenced her visit to the center of Bath, Maine as very pleasant and inviting to visitors and shoppers with the lively display of flags and colorfully painted storefronts.

Vice Chair Lefebvre commented that the operative word heard this evening was “green.” He thanked members of the various committees present giving their unique committee perspective of improvements and beautification of the Town Center and Common.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: by Board Member Wojtas to adjourn the meeting at 6:12PM. Seconded by Board Member Carota. **Motion carries 4-0, unanimous.**

Respectfully submitted,

Christine Martin Barraford
Recording Secretary

Supporting documents:
None