

Jesse Limanek, Chair person  
Jeffrey Bannon, Vice Chair  
Jonathan Anderson, Clerk  
David Hall  
Wendy M. Mead



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton  
Select Board

Meeting Minutes  
Joint Meeting: Select Board/Finance Committee/OPEB

**Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk 5/17/2022 by a roll call vote of 5-0  
6:00 p.m. – May 3, 2022**

Roll Call vote taken:

Members in Attendance in person:

Chairperson Jesse Limanek, Vice Chair Jeff Bannon, Clerk Jonathan Anderson, Select member David Hall in attendance by Zoom-  
Select person Wendy Mead

Also in attendance in person: Town Manager James Smith, Town accountant Tim Harrison & Deb Jacques, secretary

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairperson Limanek recites the following: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, this meeting of the Sutton Select Board is in a hybrid format with both in-person and Zoom component. To join the meeting visit [www.zoom.us/join](https://www.zoom.us/join) and enter Meeting ID 880 2498 9095 & Passcode 908280. The meeting will be broadcast and recorded on local public access station (Verizon 31 & Charter/Spectrum 191) and live streamed on the Towns YouTube channel when available.

Public Forum – James LaPlante 26 Heritage Road Sutton- requests a meeting with the Town Manager, Select board, Town Planner, Conservation Commission as well as abutters and all concerned residents of Unified project area.

Select person Hall motions to approve as presented the April 19, 2022 Select Board meeting minutes, Select person Anderson seconds passes 5-0 - with Roll Call vote

Arbor Day Proclamation read into record by Select person Anderson

Special 1-day Wine & Malt (9) Vaillancourt Folk Art- Christmas season events- 9 Main St.: Present is Luke & Gary Vaillancourt. Town Manager Smith explains this is a yearly request for events in the fall- according to the Police Chief there have been no issues and a TIP certified pourer will be at the events. Luke addresses the Select board- he says it is for Chriskindlemart, the Christmas Carol Play, Shopping events and a Chamber of Commerce Christmas gathering. They have not had issues in the past and if they feel Police Details are needed they do have them. Select person Hall says they know the right things to do – they provide the TIP certified servers and it allows for celebration of the season- they have created great things there. Select person Mead says she is excited as this is an example of the world getting back to the world we know. Select person Anderson says they are before the board every year- these are important events and they had had no issues. Vice Chair Bannon has no concerns- Jeff says he is glad they have managed to successfully make it through COVID- Jeff says he admires their ability to plan ahead. Chairperson Limanek has attended these events as a resident and has witnessed professionalism- and well organized. Select person Mead motions to approve 9-one day special licenses to serve Wine/Malt at Vaillancourt Folk Art (outside of the licensed \$15 off site Wine/Malt license) located at 9 Main Street for various Christmas Season gatherings on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>, 27<sup>th</sup>, Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>, 10<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> - TIP Certified Bar Tender on site Vice Chair Bannon seconds passes 5-0 with Roll Call vote.

#### Town Manager Update:

- Cherry Sheet update- MA House Ways & Means Committee released their recommended numbers to the House of Representatives- The Gov. budget increased Chapter 70 by \$30.00 per student and the House Ways & Means doubled it to \$60.00 per student, for an additional \$37,080. - the school dept. is receiving \$74,160 in additional Chapter 70 aid.
- Painting of Town Hall- bids opened April 28, 2022- 7 contractors submitted bids- the Building Commissioner will review and vet before award issued. We plan on this project being done in the summer.
- Planning Board special permit public hearing- The Planning Board began the process for Unified for buildings 2 & 3 on April 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Unified had purchased the aggregate parcel along with a few others totaling 400+ acres. The town has made this a priority development site as it was one of the last undeveloped parcels. It is zoned office light industrial allowing for warehouse and distribution. The work being conducted on site – particularly the blasting is an impact. While none of the blasts exceeded the state required limits or even half the limit they could have done a better job notifying residents. Jim spoke to Art Mahassel & Len McAleer, they are working on a plan to better notify residents. Hearing the request from Public Forum resident- it may not be a good time to have a resident meeting while Unified is going through the hearing process.
  - Select person Hall attended the Planning Board meeting- Unified was present but really did not answer any of the concerns- the residents are frustrated. It is good that Unified is being encouraged to get out more information- communication is key. Dave asks what would the purpose be for having a meeting with the residents- we cannot change what has been done. Unfortunately, we have to go through blasting for this project. It had always been a board priority to develop property in town and Dave continues to support this. That property has been zoned industrial since the bylaws were adopted in 1955. Dave anticipates Planning Dept will continue to do their job well.
  - Select person Mead feels it is not lack of transparency that took the residents by surprise with this project- it is lack of involvement as a community. Wendy said there is a link if residents want to get updates: [www.unified2parkwayproject.com](http://www.unified2parkwayproject.com). Wendy adds that when the lease for building 1 is finalized it is critical Unified update their webpage to reflect the information so residents in the area are aware.
  - Select person Anderson says change is never easy he understands why people are concerned with the blasting- they have a commitment to the community to answer to the residents. The town and its residents should not have to chase down unified. The TIF was given because of Unified's commitment to the community. Jonathan asks why they are doing site work while it is still under site plan review
  - Vice chair Bannon says the board have all heard from residents and they have valid concerns and worries. This company has been a good corporate partner to the town but they missed an opportunity to get in front of this and inform the residents. Jeff did not know about the blasting until after it happened. Jeff is glad they are trying to improve their communication- they have a responsibility to respond to residents concerns.
  - Chairperson Limanek lives approx. ¾ mile away from the blasting- he said it is an interesting sensation but there is a process in place. Jesse does not think a meeting is a good idea. There is a structure in place for permits and that is what they are doing. It is the job of the Planning Board, Conservation, Building Dept. to protect and provide service to the town. The Planning Board took notes and listened to the issues- Jesse is confident the process will work. The ultimate communicator falls under Unified.
- Town Meeting will be held in the Middle school/High school auditorium on May 9 at 7pm. Town Election will take place May 24<sup>th</sup> 7am-8pm.
- Memorial Day Parade- to be held on Memorial Day May 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- Sutton Fire had a very busy 3 days which included mutual aid for Structure fires, including the drive inn theater which was suspected arson. As usual they did a great job and we thank them.
- New Superintendent hire Kimberly Roberts Morandi- we welcome her.

#### Announcement's/Round Table

Select person Mead reflects over the weekend country singer Naomi Judd took her life- no one is safe from depression- treat all with kindness.

Select person Anderson encourages all to attend site plan review meetings to learn the process to go through developing property- they must stay within the bounds of Zoning Bylaws. Public Comments are important.

Vice Chair Bannon congratulates the new Superintendent- thank you to the School Committee and the Search Committee- we wish her well. Happy Mother's Day to all the Mothers.

Chairperson Limanek reads the needs of the Food Pantry. There will be a Mother's Day breakfast at the Dudley Gendron. Reminder it is Flea & Tick season. Jesse names two individuals that have passed away and asks for a moment of silence (Tony Barron and Robert Smith)

Vice Chair Bannon motions to adjourn, Select person Anderson seconds- Roll Call vote taken- passes 5-0  
Meeting adjourned 7:20pm

