



## MANCHESTER-BY-THE-SEA

SELECT BOARD • TOWN HALL

Manchester-by-the-Sea, Massachusetts 01944-1399

Telephone (978) 526-2000 FAX (978) 526-2001

### MINUTES OF THE SELECT BOARD

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March 2, 2026

6:30pm

Hybrid Meeting

Join Zoom Meeting, Meeting: ID: 825 9094 4830 Passcode:500312 Mobile: 1.646.558.8656

**MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ms. Harrison – Chair, Mr. Round – Vice-Chair, Ms. Bilotta, Mr. Sollosy, Mr. Delaney

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**

**STAFF PRESENT:** Tony Barletta, Town Administrator, Andy Vanikiotis, Assistant Harbormaster

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Ms. Harrison called the Select Board meeting to order at 6:30pm with five members present in person and stated the meeting is being recorded.

**Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items:** No comments

**Chairman's Report & Action Items:** The Board reviewed the action/task list.

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#### 1. National Grid Hearings:

##### a. Union Street

##### b. 2 Pulaski Drive

*Mr. Round moved to open the National Grid hearings, Ms. Bilotta seconded. Mr. Delaney – yes, Mr. Sollosy – yes, Ms. Bilotta – yes, Ms. Harrison – yes, Mr. Round - yes*

a. **Union Street:** Michael Kazati from National Grid explained that the petition is to install approximately 25 feet of 2-3 inch conduit from an existing manhole on Union Street to a proposed handhole on the sidewalk for new service at 1 School Street.

Ms. Bilotta inquired about the timing and disruption given the downtown location. Mr. Barletta noted that the DPW Director could require night work or limit daytime work from 9 AM to 3 PM as part of the road opening permit. Mr. Kazati explained the project was in the design phase and would move to scheduling over 2-4 weeks, with timing dependent on crew availability.

Mr. Sollosy expressed preference for night work given the location's importance as "the most important corner in town." He noted concerns about increased activity during warmer weather and potential conflicts with future culvert work. The consensus favored completing the work sooner rather than later and at night, with final decisions left to the DPW Director.

b. **2 Pulaski Drive:** Mr. Kazati explained that the petition is to install conduit from an existing T-locks (to be upgraded to a heavy duty handhole) to 2 Pulaski Drive for a service upgrade. Mr. Barletta confirmed the work would be limited to Pulaski Drive and would not extend to Pleasant Street.

*Ms. Harrison moved to close the evidentiary portion of the hearing, Ms. Bilotta seconded. Mr. Delaney – yes, Mr. Sollosy – yes, Ms. Bilotta – yes, Ms. Harrison – yes, Mr. Round - yes*

*Ms. Harrison moved that the Select Board approve the National Grid petitions for Union Street and 2 Pulaski Drive; Mr. Delaney seconded. Mr. Delaney – yes, Mr. Sollosy – yes, Ms. Bilotta – yes, Ms. Harrison – yes, Mr. Round - yes*

*Ms. Harrison moved to close the public hearings, Mr. Sollosy seconded. Mr. Delaney – yes, Mr. Sollosy – yes, Ms. Bilotta – yes, Ms. Harrison – yes, Mr. Round – yes*

## **2. Action Items:**

### **a. Authorize the Town Administrator to Enter into a One Year Canteen Contract at Singing Beach – Captain Dusty’s**

Mr. Barletta presented the updated one-year contract with Captain Dusty's Ice Cream for the 2026 season, running from the date of execution through summer 2026. The chair noted a minor typographical error on page two requiring correction.

*Mr. Delaney moved that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to enter into a one-year contract with Captain Dusty's Ice Cream to operate the canteen at Singing Beach for the 2026 season. Mr. Sollosy seconded. Mr. Delaney – yes, Mr. Sollosy – yes, Ms. Bilotta – yes, Ms. Harrison – yes, Mr. Round - yes*

### **b. Authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Powder House Lane Regulatory Agreement and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants:**

The board discussed the regulatory agreement for affordable housing compliance monitoring. Ms. Bilotta emphasized the importance of establishing clear operational procedures and roles for compliance, noting this was the town's first such agreement. She requested understanding of obligations and consequences of non-compliance.

Sarah Mellish, Chair of the Affordable Housing Trust, explained the town's primary obligation would be to receive and review annual reports, with EOHLIC notification required within seven days of discovering any violations. Mr. Barletta would establish procedures to ensure proper monitoring and calendar management.

*Mr. Sollosy moved that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Powder House Lane Regulatory Agreement and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants, Mr. Delaney seconded. Mr. Delaney – yes, Mr. Sollosy – yes, Ms. Bilotta – yes, Ms. Harrison – yes, Mr. Round – yes*

### **c. Request from North Shore Pride to raise the Transgender Flag on the Town Flagpole in commendation of International Day of Trans Visibility from March 28<sup>th</sup> to April 4<sup>th</sup>**

Dr. Hope Watt-Bucci, President of North Shore Pride, requested flying the transgender flag for seven days in recognition of International Transgender Day of Visibility, citing over 1,000 anti-transgender legislative items nationally and 23 fatal attacks against the transgender community in 2025.

Steve Hamilton, 51 Forest Street, who lost their transgender daughter spoke emotionally about the importance of visibility and support for the transgender community. Mike Shaw, 12 North Street, cited religious objections to the timing during Holy Week and argued the Pride flag in June should encompass all groups.

Mr. Sollosy expressed support for the advocacy but opposed creating separate flags for subsets of the LGBTQ+ community, preferring the Pride flag remain inclusive. Mr. Round questioned the seven-day duration versus the single day of visibility. Ms. Bilotta supported a proclamation but noted the absence of one in the meeting materials and concerns about establishing policies for the second flagpole.

The board decided to postpone the decision pending preparation of a proclamation, with the item returning in two weeks.

**d. Request from North Shore Pride to raise the Progress Flag on the Town Flagpole on May 31<sup>st</sup> to June 30<sup>th</sup> for Pride Month:**

*Mr. Round moved that the Select Board proclaim the month of June as LGBTQ+ month in the Town of Manchester-by-the-Sea and sign a proclamation to be presented on May 31<sup>st</sup>, Mr. Delaney seconded. Mr. Delaney – yes, Mr. Sollosy – yes, Ms. Bilotta – yes, Ms. Harrison – yes, Mr. Round – yes*

**e. Request from Trinity North Shore to rent Crowell Chapel for Sunday mornings from June to August**

Ms. Harrison explained that Trinity North Shore requested use of Crowell Chapel for Sunday morning services from 9 AM to 12 PM during June, July, and August 2026. Mr. Delaney expressed concerns about parking impacts on Rosedale Avenue, which already experiences problems with school parking.

Mr. Barletta confirmed police would monitor the situation and noted the congregation had negotiated use of the school parking lot. The board emphasized the importance of congregants using designated parking areas rather than neighborhood streets.

*Ms. Harrison moved that the Select Board approve Trinity North Shore's request to use Crowell Chapel every Sunday morning from 9 AM to 12 PM during June, July, and August 2026, with the condition that congregants park in the school parking lot. Mr. Delaney seconded. Mr. Delaney – yes, Mr. Sollosy – yes, Ms. Bilotta – yes, Ms. Harrison – yes, Mr. Round – yes*

**f. Request from Jim Starkey for the Creation of a Dredging Committee/Task Force**

Jim Starkey, 13 Tucks Point Road, explained that he was the founding chairman of the previous Dredging Advisory Committee, requested reconstitution of a dredging committee to implement the harbor master plan developed in 2015. He claimed that moving sailboats from Area 4 to Area 5 could save significant dredging costs long-term by reducing frequency requirements .

Mr. Barletta and Deputy Harbor Master Andy Vanikiotis explained that the Harbor Advisory Committee and harbor department were actively working on dredging planning with engineering consultants, though permitting delays had slowed progress. They noted efforts were already underway to gradually move deep-draft vessels to appropriate areas as moorings became available.

Ms. Bilotta supported doing what's best for harbor efficiency regardless of mooring preferences, while noting the need for professional engineering guidance. Mr. Delaney and others supported keeping dredging oversight within the existing Harbor Advisory Committee rather than creating a separate committee.

The board declined to create a separate dredging committee, preferring to work within existing Harbor Advisory Committee structure. They requested the Harbor Advisory Committee review and update their charter for Select Board approval.

**3. Liaison Updates:**

Mr. Round reported on DPW activities, noting quick response to a water main break and that the PFAS project would go out to bid this week with results before town meeting.

Mr. Delaney provided updates on Planning Board scheduling of public hearings and ZBA proceedings.

Mr. Sollosy renewed his call for eliminating virtual-only meetings after a Conservation Commission chair appeared with an animated fox emoji.

Ms. Bilotta reported on various committee activities, including Downtown Improvement's successful marketing to realtors.

Ms. Harrison provided updates on school committee budget discussions and Board of Health digitization grants.

#### **4. Consent Agenda:**

**a. Meeting Minutes – February 17, 2026**

**b. Special Event Permit for Hits the Street for Little Feet on May 8<sup>th</sup> from 5:00pm to 7:00pm – MBTS Memorial Elementary School**

*Mr. Delaney moved that the Select Board approve the consent agenda,*

#### **5. Town Administrator's Report**

##### **a. FY27 Operating/Capital Budgets**

Mr. Barletta reported on the Finance Committee's continued progress meeting weekly, with most operating budgets approved and focus shifting to capital items discussion. A significant variable remains waste hauling contract costs, with DPW Director pressuring vendors for updated proposals and exploring bidding alternatives.

The operating budget currently shows approximately \$20,000 in additional unappropriated funds, though the waste hauling contract and other variables could affect this figure. Health insurance negotiations remain delayed pending GIC decisions on plan structures.

##### **b. Draft Town Meeting Warrant**

Mr. Barletta presented a draft warrant containing approximately 29 articles, including three citizen petitions, multiple capital items requiring individual votes, four zoning articles, and general bylaw articles. The administration is conducting weekly communication through Cricket articles and planning informational sessions before town meeting.

Priority initiatives include posting the police chief position, submitting the MVP action grant application for culvert project backup funding, and exploring various grant opportunities including one-stop grants for the senior/community center and potential federal project funding up to \$1,000,000.

He reported promising progress on the Mason's Lodge purchase for the senior center, with most contracts completed and expectations to close this month pending deregistration with the Registry of Deeds.

**8:30pm** *Mr. Sollosy moved to adjourn, Mr. Delaney seconded. Mr. Delaney – yes, Mr. Sollosy – yes, Ms. Bilotta – yes, Ms. Harrison – yes, Mr. Round - yes*

#### **Meeting Materials:**

National Grid petitions

One year Canteen Contract with Captain Dusty's

Powder House Lane Regulatory Agreement and Declaration of Restrictive Covenants

North Shore Pride email & Pride Month Proclamation

Crowell Chapel email

Dredging Committee/Task Force information

Consent agenda items