

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
Minutes of the Meeting
November 21, 2022

1. Vice-President McLaughlin called the meeting to order at 8:00pm in the City Council Chamber.
2. VP McLaughlin asked the Clerk to call the roll to record the attendance for the meeting. The Clerk called the roll – Councillors Bradley-MacArthur, Darcy, Dunn, Durkee, Harris, LaCava, LaFauci, LeBlanc, President McMenimen, O'Brien, Vidal and VP McLaughlin were present in-person. Councillors Katz, Paz and Stanley were absent.
3. President McMenimen moved to approve the minutes of the meeting on November 7, 2022. The motion was adopted on a voice vote and the minutes of the November 7, 2022 meeting were approved.
4. President McMenimen asked for a moment of silence to remember those Brandeis students involved in the bus crash that occurred this past weekend. President McMenimen also spoke of the efforts of the first responders who were present and aided the injured victims.
5. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Joseph Attardo as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. Councillor LeBlanc recused himself from the matter to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. President McMenimen spoke favorably of the candidate citing his resume and background. President McMenimen moved to confirm the appointment of Joseph Attardo as a member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
6. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the re-appointment of Michael Russo as the Veterans' Director and as the License Commission Assistant. Councillor LaCava recused himself from the matter to avoid the appearance of a conflict of interest. Councillor Darcy spoke in support of Mr. Russo citing his tenure and accomplishments with the City. Councillor Darcy moved to confirm the re-appointment of Michael Russo as the Veterans' Director and as the License Commission Assistant. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
7. A request was received from the Mayor to confirm the appointment of Amy Caissie as an Assessor. Councillor Darcy moved to hear from Ms. Caissie. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Ms. Caissie gave a brief summary of her background and experience for the Assessor position. Councillor Darcy spoke in favor of Ms. Caissie citing her work and experience. Councillor Darcy moved to confirm the appointment of Amy Caissie as an Assessor. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
8. A resolution was submitted by Councillor Darcy to honor longtime environmental advocate and Conservation Commission Clerk, Gloria Champion. Councillor Darcy moved to request the Mayor to appropriate funds for a bench to be placed at Berry Farm in honor of Ms. Champion. On the motion, Councillors LaFauci, O'Brien, and President McMenimen shared personal

remembrances of Gloria Champion. The motion of Councillor Darcy was adopted on a voice vote.

9. A resolution was submitted by Councillor Darcy concerning the permanent protection of the 4.9 acre Lot 3 along Trapelo Road. Councillor Darcy spoke of his reasons for the resolution and asked that an endorsement letter from the City Council be sent to the State DCR. President McMenimen asked several questions of the proposal including the need for additional information from the State on the matter. Councillor Darcy moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
10. A resolution was submitted by Councillor Darcy concerning the MBTA "Better Bus Project". Councillor Darcy spoke about the adverse impact to Waltham, specifically citing the bus routes that could be eliminated. Councillor Darcy asked that an endorsement letter from the City Council be sent to the MBTA. Councillor Darcy also stated that the Mayor, Traffic Engineer, State Senator Barrett and State Representatives Stanly and Lawn be heard from. VP McLaughlin informed the Committee the Mayor was not available as she was attending a memorial service at Brandeis for the victims involved in the bus crash over the past weekend. President McMenimen raised concerns about the endorsement letter. Councillor Harris stated the matter needed further discussion and repeated the need of the Mayor, Traffic Engineer, State Senator Barrett and State Representatives Stanly and Lawn to appear before the Committee and placed the request in the form of motion. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Harris also moved to have the COA Director provide information on the transportation options available to seniors. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Bradley-MacArthur spoke of her attendance at several ZOOM meetings of the MBTA "Better Bus Project" and moved to request that an MBTA representative also attend the next Committee meeting and to provide information from the ZOOM meetings. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Bradley-MacArthur also move that the matter be placed as an item on the next COW meeting agenda. The motion was adopted on a voice vote. Councillor Darcy moved to place the matter on the table. The motion was adopted on a voice vote.
11. Councillor Harris rose to speak about the upcoming date for supporting small business and the reasons for its importance.
12. A motion by Councillor LaCava to adjourn was adopted on a voice vote and VP McLaughlin declared the meeting adjourned at 9:55pm.

Paul G. Centofanti – Clerk to the Committee of the Whole