

HATS Board Meeting
April 24, 2014
Lincoln Town Offices
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

Attending: HATS Selectmen Members: Mike Rosenberg, Bedford; Peter Braun, Lincoln; Deb Mauger, Lexington; and Elise Woodward, Concord; **Planning Board Members:** *Lisa Mustapich, Bedford*; **At-Large Members:** **Maggie Debbie, Bedford.** **Others in attendance:** Jennifer Green-Lanchoney, Hanscom AFB; Nancy Nelson, Minute Man National Park; Amber Goodspeed, Massport; Natalie Kaufman, Office of Cong. Katherine Clark; Chris Whelan, Concord Town Manager; ~~Jim~~ John Hutchins ~~Hutchens~~, Concord Finance Committee; Peyton Marshall, Lincoln Finance Committee.

Mr. Rosenberg opened the meeting at 7:30 p.m. with welcome and introductions at the Lincoln Town Offices. It was then moved by Mr. Rosenberg and seconded by Ms. Mauger, to elect Peter Braun for a one-year term as HATS Chair. The motion was approved unanimously. Mr. Braun thanked the Board for the opportunity to serve as Chair and welcomed input as the year progresses.

OPEB/GASB Discussion:

Mr. Braun introduced a discussion of the four towns' policies and practices regarding compliance with Government Accounting Standards Board (GASB) reporting requirements of Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB) liabilities. Mr. Braun noted that the discussion is one of a series of occasional exchanges of information and ideas among the towns on matters of common interest. Mr. Braun welcomed guests Mr. Hutchins, Mr. Whelan, and Mr. Marshall to participate in the discussion. Each town's representatives then described their current policies and practices (Mr. Marshall for Lincoln; Mr. Whelan and Mr. Hutchins for Concord; Ms. Mauger for Lexington; and Mr. Rosenberg for Bedford). There was then further discussion of specific aspects of common interest, including the economic rationale for funding the OPEB liability (in addition to the rationale of complying with GASB requirements), the financial implications of balancing current funding imperatives and long-term savings-oriented imperatives, and the actuaries' treatment of the discount rate in relation to a town's commitment to a funding plan. **All four towns have the goal to maintain their AAA ratings for improved borrowing rates.**

MassPort/Jet Aviation Update:

Mr. Braun reported on the status of the MassPort/Jet Aviation application for a wetlands permit pending before the Lincoln Conservation Commission (LCC). He reported that the hearing process had concluded after five sessions and that the LCC had voted to grant a permit under the State's regulations subject to conditions ~~still being developed~~ **to be announced in May** that will likely include an indication that the LCC believes that the Lincoln by-laws are applicable. Mr. Braun noted that MassPort does not agree that the Lincoln by-laws are applicable and that it is unclear how or when that issue would be resolved. Mr. Braun also noted that the Lincoln Board of Selectman had not taken a position on any aspect of the LCC proceeding. He added that the LCC hearings had attracted considerable attention from residents concerned with MassPort expansion and that he hoped that substantive dialogue regarding the expansion issue would occur beyond the confines of a specific land-use application. More specifically, he stated that he hoped that MassPort would give attention to HATS' prior expressions of interest in engaging in substantive dialogue with MassPort senior management, including dialogue regarding how to balance MassPort's fulfillment of its mission with the local communities' environmental concerns.

HATS Web Site:

Mr. Braun introduced the concept of establishing a HATS web site, which he believes will enhance the visibility and accessibility of HATS' activities in the four towns and to other interested persons and organizations. He envisioned a simple site that would be linked into the four towns' web sites and would house HATS minutes, HATS meeting videos, HATS-related documents, links to sites relevant to HATS interests, and other information as appropriate. It was the Board's consensus that Mr. Braun should explore the concept further regarding hosting, cost, and administration and that Mr. Braun should report back to the Board at its next meeting.

Regional transportation updates

Route 2: Mr. Braun reported that Lincoln continues to work closely with Department of Transportation (DOT) regarding enhancements to the Route 2 landscaping and fencing plan, that the more visible part of the Crosby Corner bridge/service road/ramp phase had begun, and that Lincoln continues to coordinate with DOT to manage the access and related issues stemming from the imminent commencement of construction of the new health care components of the Commons In Lincoln senior living facility. Mr. Braun noted that the relationship with the Department of Transportation has continued to be excellent.

Mr. Braun also noted the MPO's recent report on implemented traffic light coordination along Route 2 and recommendations for turning lanes to help alleviate queuing traffic at Route 2 intersections in Lincoln and Concord.

Mr. Braun also reported that at the most recent HFAC meeting he had requested MassPort to investigate the history of the establishment and discontinuation of a traffic detail at the 2A/Hanscom Drive intersection at rush hour, as well as consider restoration of the detail. Ms. Goodspeed responded that MassPort had taken the request under advisement, believes that the expense had been shared with Lincoln North and other commercial property owners in the area, and would be willing to consider restoration if the expense were shared proportionately to traffic-generation. Mr. Braun thanked MassPort for considering the request and suggested that further discussion occur at the next HATS meeting.

Update: Massachusetts Military Asset and Security Strategy Task Force:

Mr. Braun reported on his most recent communications with Adam Freudberg, including the following: the upcoming transitions of the current heads of the AFMC (General Wolfenbarger), the AFLCMC (General Moore), and the 66th ABG (Colonel Weilacher); the continuing speculation and the political dynamics regarding a possible BRAC process in 2017; that the CEIF building improvements remain the only currently planned use of the bond funds at Hanscom; and that the Vandenberg Gate land swap is proceeding, albeit slowly.

Mr. Braun also stated that Mr. Freudberg has requested a slot on the May 22 HATS agenda as part of a larger outreach effort by the Task Force, and that there is still potential for Cong. Clark to attend the May 22 HATS meeting. Mr. Braun also reported that he had suggested that Cong. Clark be prepared to discuss Hanscom and regional transportation issues, and he requested the HATS members to think of other possible topics.

Future HATS Meetings:

It was the Board's consensus to not hold a June meeting due to scheduling conflicts and to schedule the next HATS meetings for May 22 and July 24 unless urgent matters require additional or revised dates.

Future agenda items may include: update on the Hanscom signage as reviewed by the NPS, PPPP with HAFB update, regional transportation, Battle Road Scenic Byway implementation plan update.

Minutes and Adjournment:

A motion to approve the ~~March~~ February 27, 2014 meeting minutes was made by Mike Rosenberg, seconded by Elise Woodward and passed unanimously. A motion to adjourn was made by Deb Mauger seconded by Mike Rosenberg and passed unanimously.

Submitted by Peter Braun