

**HATS Meeting  
October 27, 2011  
Final Meeting Minutes issued for the Record**

*Members Present:* Deb Mauger, Lexington Selectmen (Chair); Michael Rosenberg, Bedford Selectmen; Sara Mattes, Lincoln Selectmen; Sharon Williams, Massport; Lisa Mustapich, Bedford Planning Board; Dorothy Steele, Massport; Bob, Lincoln Planning Board

*Not in attendance:* Elise Woodward, Concord Selectmen; Doris Cole, Concord Planning Board

*Others present:* Sen. Susan Fargo; Rep. Jay Kaufman; Margaret Coppe, Lexington School Committee; Peter Braun, Lincoln Selectmen

Ms. Mauger opened the meeting at 7:39 p.m., welcomed everyone and gave introductions.

**Elect Chair to Pro Tem:**

Mr. Rosenberg nominated Ms. Mauger as Chair Pro Tem in Ms. Woodward's absence. Ms. Mattes seconded the motion. Vote: Approved

**Conversations with members of Legislative Delegations:**

*Casino bills:*

Senator Susan Fargo indicated the casino bill will likely pass this year (it did not pass last year), as there is currently a strong focus on jobs and revenue. There is currently little information available on the cost benefit analysis and this bill will pose a challenge for the local communities. Some details of the bill and casino options were discussed to include an amendment to eliminate of free drinks. Also a smoking ban is included in the bill this time. The Gaming Commission will be appointed rather than elected and given particular authority, having political power that may be perceived as unconstitutional. A provision to compensate the towns for the additional public safety personnel needed to police the roadways around a casino area was discussed. It was explained that there has been an attempt to mitigate the impact on community neighborhoods but this too is a challenge. The Committee discussed concerns including statistics concerning the negative impact to those who already struggle with an addiction to gambling, as well as the negative impact of casinos on foreclosure, theft and small business closings. There is concern that a casino will negatively impact the rich history of Massachusetts, which is currently ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the nation for tourism. There was a discussion regarding the political environment leading to an approval for a casino bill and of casinos in neighboring states that are not doing well. There was a discussion of action items, what can be done by communities, the risk to local aid and lottery money, and the effect on public policy.

There were some questions from those attending the meeting. One was from Peter Braun, Lincoln Selectmen, who asked what might be done if one of the provisions is unconstitutional. Ms. Fargo has contacted the Secretary of State's office and but as it will take resources to address this. Ms. Fargo suggested there be a number of local queries regarding community interests.

Rep. Kaufman, despite his own position, challenged HATS members by suggesting they ask the following question: what is in it for our local community and how much should be invested? A

focal point is what controls local authorities have over decisions about their own community, not necessarily whether there should there be a casino.

Redistricting:

There was a discussion concerning the comment period as well as amendment deadlines. Mr. Kaufman explained maps were officially approved by the Committee and slated for House and Senate action next Tuesday.

Ms. Mattes explained Lincoln is in a new district with Waltham yet shares a regional high school with Sudbury. There is shared interest around the Air Force base with the HATS communities but there is no legislative connection except through the Senate. There is a potential upcoming BRAC which may also affect the communities. It seems a town of 6,000 is being compared with a city of 60,000 and there may be a question as to the equity of this kind of arrangement even though there is an alignment along Route 128. This is the 3<sup>rd</sup> redistricting for Lincoln. Rep. Kaufman and Lincoln have a good working relationship with the Mayor of Waltham.

Margaret Coppe, Lexington, asked what the district changes will be. The Senate district is virtually unchanged. Senator Donnelly has moved from Woburn. There is no change for Bedford in the House district and Concord remains in the current Senate district. Tom Stanley will no longer be representing part of Lexington, however, he has been a good partner and advocate for the local communities.

Update on State budget conversations:

Mr. Kaufman explained that budget conversations will pick up after the first of the year. The decision that may affect states and towns will be announced around Thanksgiving and the news is not expected to be good. There was a discussion regarding the DoD budget, direct and indirect grants, and the significant impact to HAFB. Mr. Kaufman explained that Markey's office analyzed and the reasons why Massachusetts is highly vulnerable to cuts including that in Massachusetts there is a high concentration of defense industry, high tech and life sciences. Therefore, the investment of the state in intellectual and research industries are high. Health care is a strong industry here as well, which has helped through the recession but hospitals are concerned about Medicare and Medicaid cuts. The state rating has gone up and the rainy day fund is at about \$1.4m, which will keep the bond rating strong. Transportation funding is also vulnerable (under chapter 90).

The Crosby corner project is moving along. However, legislation must be filed by Senator Fargo in the Senate Council to resolve a few environmental conservation land issues.

Lincoln bill addressing 3 liquor issues was being considered today. Senator Fargo will follow up.

Ms. Mattes asked about the municipal electric bill. Rep. Kaufman said the hearing was well attended, a compelling case was made and the committee chairs are favorably predisposed to the bill. There are issues of accountability, how to account for the value of the facilities that would be bought if the service is taken over, and language is being crafted. There was a discussion about process and resolving legitimate issues politically. Ms. Mattes suggested the importance to have an adequate understanding about the process as there is significant investment in capital infrastructure. The costs will run about \$500k just for the analysis after the bill passes.

Peter Braun asked for comments on the following:

1. *Bill to have a minimum CPA contribution of 75%:* It was explained there is a good amount of legislative support for this and that there should be an understanding of increased fees or taxes. Mr. Rosenberg mentioned a coalition that communicates by email regarding progress.
2. *Double polls:* This problem was discussed as well as resolution it through fines, that may be a challenge to enforce at the local level.

Ms. Mauger asked about the following:

1. *Status and work on hazardous materials along Route 128:* There is joint concern about hazardous materials on the roadways and it is being addressed. There was a study done by a reputable company to find alternatives for moving materials off Boston streets. However, a criticism indicated the math, logic and framing of questions in the study are faulty. DOT has received the critique and a request was sent for the study to be redone. There is compelling data in the review to move the hazardous waste transport nearer to Boston.
2. *Public safety and radio communication problems:* This is currently an issue in Lexington, a result of the need for the copper wire infrastructure to be maintained -- it causes downed systems in an outage. There was a discussion about Verizon potentially misleading customers in regards to the requirement to remove copper wire. There will be follow up with Representatives regarding this.

Other Matters:

1. *Airport:* Rep. Kaufman spent time recently with MassPort board chairs and there is a new and good team in place as well as an awareness of the history of the surrounding communities. There is not an interest in commercial and cargo air and the economy would not support expansion at this time. A written MOU is being developed and was discussed. The communities involved are the HATS communities, Logan communities as well as Worcester.
2. *Hanger 24:* There was a discussion regarding the hanger to see if it can be maintained as a historic site. Ms. Steele advocated for the development of new hangers.
3. *Facility closures:* A concern was raised by Ms. Mattes about the US Postal Service and the closure of South Station Boston facility not being moved to another location. There was a discussion of moving postal services to MassPort property.
4. *Navy parcel:* The transfer of ownership of the Navy Research Weapons Facility was discussed. MassPort is interested in the lower level portion of the parcel. No state agencies are interested in the parcel and neither is the Air Force. Federal government is interested in the other portion of the parcel. Bedford is taking over the upland portion and the ongoing cleanup is almost completed. There will be no underground storage tank on the property.
5. *BRAC:* Another BRAC round is expected in 2015. The House and Senate Representatives were encouraged to work with the Governor to avoid a last minute scramble. Mr. Rosenberg asked if the upcoming budget cuts could assist in avoiding a BRAC and there was a discussion about how this could work. It is in the interest of MassPort to keep the base vital and they are willing to help with the BRAC.

6. *Revenue system:* Rep. Kaufman is still working to reform the revenue system as it is not doing what it is structured to do. He will attend a future meeting to keep HATS informed.

The Committee discussed staying informed through LexMedia. Senator Fargo participates on the health committee and there is a need to focus on taking care of sick people not just maintaining wellness. She mentioned a section in the casino bill that revenue may trickle down to local communities to assist with a loss in education funds as has occurred in lower income communities.

**Updates:**

*HFAC:* The last meeting was on 10/18 and issues, updates and status reports were discussed. They are planning to submit an application for the parcel mentioned above. The RFP for the Hanger 24 is no longer viable. Comments and questions were due last Friday and responses are being developed. Margaret Coppe participated in the pre-submittal meeting.

**Future meeting topics:**

*Note new location:* December 8 will be at the Lincoln Town Offices in the multipurpose room. There will be no meeting in November.

*AFB Change of Command:* Colonel Yike is responsible for maintaining community relations and she will be coming for an update at the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

*Legislative conversations:* Continued conversations and invitations will be scheduled.

*Cable television:* There is a hope to have collaboration across towns.

*Massachusetts Aeronautics and Space Museum:* There is a proposal for this to be located on MassPort property. The sponsors of the museum are moving forward with fundraising and they plan to make a presentation to HFAC and HATS. This is an impressive facility geared toward education with local schools and colleges and will be located at the corner of Hanscom Drive and the Vandenberg Gate. Ms. Steele will provide the Committee with a list of sponsors composed of businessmen, pilots, and educators.

*Confirm secretary for December meeting:* The current Recording Secretary is planning to attend.

**Minutes:** July and September minutes were deferred to the December 8<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**Adjourn:** Ms. Mattes moved to adjourn. Mr. Rosenberg seconded the motion. Approved 3-0-0. The meeting was adjourned at 9:16 p.m.