

**Hanscom Area Towns Committee (HATS)
February 18, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerks of HATS member towns, the HATS meeting convened in a meeting via a recorded video conference on February 18, 2021 at 7:01 pm as allowed by Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Present:

Select Board Members: Emily Mitchell, Bedford and HATS Chair; Linda Escobedo, Concord; Suzie Barry, Lexington and assigned Clerk for this meeting; Jonathan Dwyer, Lincoln.

Guests: Mary Curlew, LICSW, Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention; Glen Kernusky, Hanscom Air Force Base Community Relations Representative.

Public Participants: Jeff Cohen, Bedford; Robert Domnitz, Lincoln; Steve Gladstone, Lincoln; Susan Barrett; Alek Soderberg, Bedford TV

Welcome and Announcements:

Ms. Mitchell welcomed participants noting that the meeting was being recorded by the Town of Bedford and Bedford TV.

Future meeting dates & main agenda items:

Ms. Mitchell indicated that Sustainability would be the topic for the April 15, 2021 meeting and that Colonel Stephens, Base Commander at Hanscom Air Force Base had been invited to attend the June 17, 2021 meeting as guest speaker.

Update: Hanscom Air Force Base:

Mr. Kernusky reported business as usual at Hanscom with 50% of the Base workforce working on Base while 50% is still tele-working at home. Mr. Kernusky confirmed the June 17, 2021 HATS meeting is on Colonel Stephens calendar to attend. He also stated that COVID-19 vaccinations are being distributed in accordance with Department of Defense guidance. Mr. Dwyer asked if the Base would be able to vaccinate all of its residents or would the Lincoln Board of Health need to cover some residents. Mr. Kernusky indicated he would follow up and get back to Mr. Dwyer. Mr. Dwyer also asked for an update on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion efforts at Hanscom as well as in the other HATS communities at a future meeting. Ms. Escobedo asked if Hanscom is having any issues getting vaccine. Mr. Kernusky indicated Hanscom is on par with the State's access.

Update: Hanscom Field:

Ms. Mitchell gave a brief update from the most recent Hanscom Field Advisory Commission (HFAC) meeting since a MassPort representative was not present at this meeting. HFAC continues to go through the 2017 ESPR chapter by chapter in preparation for the public comment period that will be coming up for the 2022 ESPR. At the February meeting they focused on the wetlands and storm water management chapter. Ms. Mitchell indicated that MassPort community representative Anthony Gallagher was laid off in the recent workforce reduction at Massport; Mike V is the new community representative. Ms. Mitchell also indicated there is a new regional

FAA representative that HFAC will be inviting to a future HFAC meeting to discuss issues with pilot behavior over surrounding communities. She also mentioned that the Concord seat on HFAC is still vacant.

Municipal highlights-Lincoln:

Mr. Dwyer shared that a recent vaccination clinic in Lincoln planned for 100 residents and was able to vaccinate 108 residents. Lincoln is planning for Annual Town Meeting on May 15, 2021 and hoping for a 3 hour meeting by having a consent agenda and making materials available ahead of time. There are some Town Meeting articles that are hold overs from last fall to deal with as well.

Municipal highlights-Concord:

Ms. Escobedo reported Concord will hold their Annual Town Meeting on June 13, 2021 and preview meetings for the Warrant were in process. The Concord Planning Board recently approved a new sub division on Main Street with 18 units including 3 affordable units.

Municipal highlights-Lexington:

Ms. Barry indicated the Lexington's Annual Town Meeting will be virtual again this year. Article 45 will deal with the rezoning of Hartwell Avenue. A second vaccination clinic for public safety was recently held in collaboration with Arlington. Curbside pickup at the Library has resumed. The Center Street scape [project in Lexington Center is due to begin in April 2021 and is anticipated to last 2 years.

Municipal highlights-Bedford:

Ms. Mitchell reported Bedford is in the midst of FY22 Budget and Annual Town Meeting planning. Two successful vaccination clinics were held earlier in February for the 75+ population. Weekly COVID testing for Bedford residents is taking place at Middlesex Community College in Bedford in collaboration with the Bedford Fire Department, the Broad Institute and nursing students from Middlesex.

Guest: Mary Curlew, LICSW, Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention

Mary Curlew gave an overview of the work the Massachusetts Coalition for Suicide Prevention does including their mission and reviewing their working partnerships. Ms. Curlew stated they are seeing trends that suicides are increasing. Largest concern especially during COOVID is social isolation; it is hard to tell how someone is doing, need to engage with people. Ms. Curlew indicated she could provide a list of support/resources to the group. Mr Dwyer asked about the statistics of suicide. Ms. Curlew indicated the 45-54 age group of men is highest risk followed by age 85+. Ms. Mitchell asked what Towns could do to help residents and for any suggestions on how to reach residents. Ms. Escobedo asked about training resources that might be specifically available for certain populations. Ms. Curlew indicated there are hotlines to call if someone is in crisis, local and national mental health groups that can be contacted. She also indicated that there is power locally with elected officials, community organizations, interfaith communities, schools, councils on aging and other group to help de-stigmatize mental health issues. Ms. Curlew spoke about QPR (Question, Persuade, and Refer) training and training overall as an important tool to help identify warning signs. Ms. Barry stated that the Lexington Select Board

and Lexington School Committee and Town Staff had participated in QPR training and found it very informative.

Minutes-January 2021:

Ms. Mitchell had four corrections to the minutes. By a roll call vote 4-0 (Mitchell-yes; Escobedo-yes; Barry-yes; Dwyer-yes) the January 2021 minutes were approved as corrected.

Adjourn:

With the Committee's business concluded for the evening, by a roll call vote 4-0 (Mitchell-yes; Escobedo-yes; Barry-yes; Dwyer-yes) the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie Barry
Lexington Select Board Member

DRAFT