

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
March 13, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Collins at 6:30 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Board Members Present: Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. **Also present:** Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager.

Chairman Collins announced that the Board would be going into Executive Session and declared that having an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the body.

A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to go into Executive Session **Under M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 #3** – To discuss strategy with respect to litigation (Opioid Litigation) if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Ampagoomian/Yes, Selectman Melia/Yes, Selectman Paulhus/Yes, Selectman Begin/Yes, and Chairman Collins/Yes.

Open Session Adjourned: 6:31 PM

Executive Session Convened: 6:32 PM

Executive Session Adjourned: 6:55 PM

Open Session Reconvened: 7:00 PM

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Senator Ryan Fattman addressed the Board and noted that due to redistricting, he now serves all precincts in Northbridge. He then introduced his two aides: Kylie Gibbons, District Director and Amanda Hellier. Senator Fattman explained that if he is unable to attend a meeting either one of them may attend on his behalf and provide updates, etc. Ms. Gibbons pointed out that one great aspect of their job is being out in the district and getting to know people. She stated they are happy to visit and hear about the Town's needs not only for constituents but for the municipality as well. They can bring these needs before the State and have conversations about it, as well as be a resource for the Town. Ms. Hellier stated that she has been primarily engaging with Senior Centers and she would be thrilled to connect with the Council on Aging. Senator Fattman mentioned the hearing process for Ways and Means began today, which puts the House and Senate budgets forward. He indicated that the Governor's budget did include an increase of 14.5%. Next, he expressed that he is hopeful to see the tax reform bill pass as he feels it will make Massachusetts a more economically competitive state. He also added the State has \$2.9 billion dollars in ARPA funds, some of which was used by the Whittin Community Center for updates to the gym including having the floor refinished and making it handicapped accessible. Selectman Ampagoomian informed the Senator he received a call from a resident who lives at 192 Providence Road, where there is an oak tree in the state's right of way and one of the branches are overhanging. He asked if Mass. Highway would check it out. Selectman Ampagoomian added he hopes that Senator Fattman and his counterparts in the Senate and House push back on the proposal to change the State flag. Selectman Paulhus asked the Senator to continue to fight for revenues for small town budgets, especially with the rate of inflation. He reasoned that a 2% increase for certain categories wouldn't necessarily keep smaller towns level-funded. Senator Fattman explained that he served as a Selectman prior to becoming a Senator for that exact reason; that the State's budget increases but smaller towns continue to struggle financially and the very reason he has criticized the Governor's current budget. He said the schools in our area haven't experienced a positive financial impact because part of the problem is the fact that the schools in our area are considered wealthy due to the State's funding formula. Selectman Melia asked Senator Fattman to comment on the pros and cons of the millionaire's tax. Senator Fattman advised he was not in favor of it, particularly as related to home sales.

He felt that as individuals on the back 9 of life, you start to think the Massachusetts isn't the place for you resulting in the loss of institutional knowledge that migrates south or west, not only socially, but business and service-wise. Senator Fattman further noted that Governor Healy proposed taking the money and putting it into a trust fund that would be used specifically for transportation and education, which he feels is good from the merits of the actual law, the way people interpreted and voted in favor of it, because there was some conversation in the Legislature that just said pass it and put it in the general fund to be spent as they wished, which he felt was very deceptive to the voters. One critique about the money that went in, which a lot of people haven't picked up on yet was the 62F (taxpayer refunds) and Massachusetts law requires that when tax revenue collections in a given fiscal year exceed an annual tax revenue cap, the excess revenue is returned to taxpayers. The Governor took that money from surtaxes and put it into the trust fund and exempted the 62F law from being impacted. So, if there is an influx of revenue that 62F is not impacted, which is not the spirit of the law but just the beginning discussions. Lastly, he noted that he hopes that they exempt housing sales, which he thinks will go a long way for our long-term economic competitiveness. Selectman Collins added that it would be great to get more funding for Chapter 90. Senator Fattman acknowledged this request. In closing, the Senator advised the Board that he would be in the hallway if any constituents had anything they would like to talk to him about.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None

PUBLIC HEARING/None

RESIGNATIONS: Carole Sweeney, Council on Aging. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to accept the resignation of Ms. Carole Sweeney from the Council on Aging and send a letter of appreciation. Vote yes/Unanimous.

APPOINTMENTS: Stefanie Brill, Council on Aging. Jean Mistretta, Council on Aging Chairman, introduced herself and Stefanie Brill. Ms. Mistretta observed that Ms. Brill has been around Plummers Place since it was the Senior Center, and has worn many hats. She has worked the desk, scheduling medical rides, she has picked up food donations, driving for medical rides and they are thrilled to have her join the Council on Aging. Ms. Brill pointed out that she has been a volunteer for many years and her vision was always to serve on the COA. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian seconded/Mr. Melia to appoint Stefanie Brill to the Council on Aging. Vote yes/Unanimous.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT: Anthony Penticost, Smith Street (private way) / Condition of road. Anthony Penticost, Tracy Penticost and Barbara McNamee of Smith Street were present to discuss the condition of Smith Street. Mrs. Penticost advised that she and her husband have been living on Smith Street for about 5 years now, and they have had a noticeable increase in traffic on their street, which is a private way and it is their understanding that the town provides maintenance to the road as necessary. Smith Street is not in great condition and the patchwork is not sufficient for the volume of traffic anymore. Mrs. Penticost noted that there was a water main break over the summer and the Whitinsville Water company came out to fix the issue, but it caused serious damage to the road, leaving about 10 feet of gravel where the pavement was dug up. Mr. Penticost added that the water main repair area is now sinking. He acknowledged that the Highway Department is great, they come and patch the holes but it's not enough for the condition of the road. To pave the road, it would be 450 feet. Ms. McNamee added that she has lived on Smith Street for 7 years and mentioned she has also seen the street deteriorate greatly over the last couple of years as the result of development on Hemlock Street. She also stated she was aware that the developer agreed to pave Gendron Street and that they should have paved Smith Street as well due to the fact that all the cement and lumber trucks came in through Smith Street. Continuing, Ms. McNamee said she looked up the bylaw for private streets and would like to know how old it is, how it was determined, and if it needs to be updated. She then asked how many private roads are there in town. Chairman Collins replied that there are 43. He added that the town bylaws are under review as we speak. Town Manager Gaudette explained that there would have been an actual law that passed in order for a town to adopt it as a bylaw. The main

reason towns adopted this bylaw was to allow them to spend public dollars on private ways, as up until then it was not allowed. He further explained that the bylaw allows the town to put a certain amount of funds and work into the road but not do the same level of repairs/work we would on a public street. He noted that this is unfortunately one of the things that happen when someone buys a home on a private street, which are typically private homeowners associations or road associations that will charge a dollar amount per home to go towards grading and maintenance of the road. Town Manager Gaudette explained that there are a lot of things they can do up until what is called a betterment, which would bring the road up to a public road level with drainage and everything else. He explained that this would need to go through town meeting, but the homeowners would split the cost of the betterment. Town Manager Gaudette recommended going before the Planning Board and explained that the road is still a private subdivision that has not been accepted by the town. When they decided to pave Gendron Street that was through a public hearing process as they were permitting it. Ms. McNamee asked about the \$500 limit that the town can spend on private roads and asked with inflation if that could be increased. Town Manager Gaudette explained that the Bylaw Review Committee would need to review it first, and added there is an article on the Spring Town Meeting warrant. Chairman Collins reiterated the Town Manager's advisement to go before the Planning Board since the worsening condition of the road is caused by the development and increase of construction trucks and residents.

Blackstone Valley Veterans Association/1) Request to hold a Memorial Day Parade in Whitinsville on Monday, May 29, 2023 at 10:00 AM 2) Request permission to use Memorial Park for Memorial Day exercises. Present: Dan Lessard. Mr. Lessard noted that they are requesting to hold the parade as they have in the past and noted they will be in contact with the Police, Fire and DPW to coordinate further. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the above request to hold a Memorial Day Parade in Whitinsville on Monday, May 29, 2023 at 10:00 AM. Vote yes/Unanimous. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the above request to use Memorial Park for Memorial Day exercises. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Castle Hill Farm Purchase / Vote to support the Treasurer's decision to borrow for 15 years. Present: Julie Harris, Treasurer/Collector. Town Manager Gaudette reminded the Board that at the Fall Town Meeting the voters approved the purchase of Castle Hill Farm with a purchase price of \$1.45 million with \$1.2 million to be borrowed through the CPA funds and another \$250,000 from CPA reserves. We have been working with our financial advisors and CPC to balance out what we can afford. They looked at 3 different scenarios and the terms, interest rates and cost to borrow \$1.2 million are as follows:

TERM	INTEREST RATE	INTEREST
15 years	3.75%	\$360,000
20 years	4.25%	\$535,000
30 years	4.75%	\$883,000

The CPC receives approximately \$200,000 a year and they are looking to put a down payment on the Castle Hill property and still have money for other projects. It was recommended that the 15-year loan was in the best interest of the town since it has the lowest interest rate and the least amount of debt service. Town Manager Gaudette noted that this decision would typically be made by the Treasurer/Collector but they wanted to bring it forward to the Board and ask that they support her recommendation to borrow for 15 years. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to support the Treasurer's decision to borrow for 15 years for Castle Hill Farm Purchase (with CPC funds). Vote yes/Unanimous.

Open Sky Community Services/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from May 21, 2023 to June 3, 2023 to advertise the Valley Friendship Tour on June 3, 2023. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve Open Sky's request to hang a banner across Church Street from May 21, 2023 to June 3, 2023 to advertise the Valley Friendship Tour that will be held on June 3, 2023. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Pine Grove Cemetery Deed/1) Amy Depasquale [Lot No. 63B (South), one full grave]. A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the sale of Lot No. 63B (South), one full grave] to Amy Depasquale. Vote yes/Unanimous. **2) Steven Sinson [Lot No. 32A & 31B, Walnut Path, two graves].** A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the sale of lot No. 32A & 31B, Walnut Path, two graves to Steven Sinson. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Joint meeting with the Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials

Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials Award Program Presentation/Present: Richard Trier (Non-Veteran member) and Thomas Farley, (Veteran member). Mr. Trier thanked the Board for their support over the last year. With the money allocated to the Trustees, they were able to construct a brand new civil war memorial walkway, flagpole repining, and added signage to the "Squares" for those killed in action, which was a larger project. He further thanked Jamie Luchini and the DPW for all of their assistance on these projects. He explained that they are looking to do another project they feel is very important and honors those Veterans that are still with us. Mr. Trier turned it over to Mr. Farley to explain the Outstanding Community Service Recognition Award. Mr. Farley explained the Trustees are asking the public to complete and submit forms to nominate a Veteran for the Outstanding Community Service Award. This person could be a Veteran that now serves on a Board or Committee, or coaches a team, or gives back to the community in any way. He explained they would be looking to honor a veteran with the award once a year on Memorial Day. They would like to put a plaque on the park bench as well. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if those nominated would be informed that they received the award. Mr. Trier noted that the disadvantage of telling them is the ones who were nominated but not chosen may get discouraged. They are trying to keep it an award based on merit. He noted he would lean towards keeping it quiet until someone is honored, and they would notify the recipient before Memorial Day so that his or her family can be there. Selectman Melia asked who would choose the individual. Mr. Trier noted that the Trustees of Soldiers Memorials would collect the nominations and choose the recipient. Selectman Collins asked how they would come up with the Summary of Veteran's Activity and how they would come up with the information if they do not plan to tell them. Mr. Trier noted that the person who nominates the Veteran would provide them with as much information as possible.

Conservation Commission/Request to manage Benson Road Town-Owned Land / Present: David Pickart, Conservation Agent. Town Manager Gaudette explained that the Board has been talking about different properties the town owns and are available for surplus. A resident has reached out about this particular property on Benson Road, which the Conservation Commission has been talking about for some time. They are here tonight to discuss the significance of the property and why they think we should maintain it instead of auctioning it off. Selectman Melia asked if we were to sell it if we would bring in a private company to price it out. Town Manager Gaudette stated that you would just make the assumption that the value is over \$25,000, and per Chapter 30B, anything over that amount needs to be done through an RFP. Town Manager Gaudette added that this property does not have any conservation restrictions. Selectman Melia followed up by asking what the process would be if we were to go ahead to sell the property. Town Manager Gaudette replied that the Board would declare it surplus, they would put it forward at a Town Meeting to ask for authorization to sell the parcel, and pending that approval, the Town Manager would then write an RFP, advertise the property and from there they would receive proposals and decide whether or not it was in the best interest of the town to sell to one of those proposals. The RFP would allow the town to give it to the best use instead of the best price. David Pickart, Conservation Agent, Justine Carroll, Chairman of the Conservation Commission, and Barbara McNamee, Vice Chairman, were present. Mr. Pickart explained that at the time he began working for the Town there were two areas reserved as conservation lands, which is considerably low. He also noted that he looked into the Natural Heritage Atlas, which identifies important wildlife habitat features and Northbridge only had two certified vernal pools. Vernal pools are isolated depressions that fill with water in the spring and is used for breeding amphibians that cannot tolerate the presence of fish. This property has one of the two certified vernal pools in Northbridge. Surrounding towns such as Grafton and Sutton have 2 dozen, Uxbridge has 8 or 9, and Upton has about 40. Selling a property that has a known vernal pool for development in the eye of the conservation

world would not be considered a wise choice. There are four other suitable areas for vernal pool breeding, which have not been inventoried or certified. The land is identified on the bio map, which is put together by the Natural Heritage Endangered Species program and is identified as core habitat for a vernal pool because the organisms like not only the pool but they move into the uplands for most of their lifespan and like woods. Generally, 150 feet to 1,500 feet is the distance they will travel depending on the species. 750 feet around a vernal pool is a typical range of protection and in Northbridge our bylaw only protects 80 feet. Most of the site is also identified as prime forest, which is important to preserve. It is two parcels of land, one that abuts Benson Road and the other is land locked. The Commission looked into the possibility of a majority of this property being turned over to the Commission, but they also recognize that they don't want to eliminate tax revenue. What they came to was a suitable 42,000 square foot area on Benson Road, with frontage, which could be carved out of this property and sold as a buildable lot. The Commission requested that less the 42,000 square foot property, the remaining property be designated under the management of the Conservation Commission. Mr. Pickart noted that the Conservation Commission is making progress on the Open Space and Recreation Plan, and as part of that they have rated the undeveloped land in Northbridge, identifying parcels that would be of Conservation interest and next to Castle Hill this is number 1. Selectman Ampagoomian asked how conservation manages the properties. Mr. Pickart noted that a lot of them have not been inventoried yet, which is on the to-do list this coming season and as they get to know more about them, they can then designate their uses. These properties also get trail maps associated with them, which are available on the Conservation Commissions page on the town's website, www.northbridgemass.org. Selectman Ampagoomian asked about the proposal map and the gravel area for vehicles to park off Benson Road, and asked if it will increase the possibility of the same issues that happened at Shining Rock. Mr. Pickart noted that vandalism is always an issue, and Shining Rock has gotten better. They are now adding security cameras to conservation land, which could aid in addressing these issues. Selectman Paulhus asked if they could restrict what is built on the property that is being sold. Town Manager Gaudette replied that the restrictions would be set in the zoning, which is a single-family residential zone, which is why they are cutting out a 1-acre lot because that is the minimum zoning. Selectman Begin asked if Mr. Pickart has been able to walk the property. Mr. Pickart noted that he has, but not at the right season to see the vernal pools. Selectman Begin also asked if this would be an area for a conservation restriction. Mr. Pickart replied that if someone were to buy it and offered to cover most of the expenses, maybe. Conservations restrictions are a lot of work, and they can require a lot of time and money. Selectmen Begin inquired as to whether there were any land trust organizations that would potentially be interested in coming in. Mr. Pickart replied that there is a land trust in Milford and Ms. McNamee added that Metacomet Land Trust covers Northbridge. She added that if the land were turned over to the Conservation Commission it would be protected, which would not need a conservation restriction. Selectman Begin asked that if the Conservation Commission does take this parcel of land, would there be a chance that they come forward to ask for Community Preservation grants to build trail systems or capital requests to the Town Manager, etc. Town Manager Gaudette noted that the idea is the sale of portion of the parcel going towards the funding for what they would do on the Conservation parcel. Selectman Collins asked if Mr. Pickart could elaborate on the things they could do on this property that they aren't able to do on Castle Hill. Mr. Pickart replied that Castle Hill does not appear to have any vernal pools on the property, restricted uses etc. Selectman Collins expressed concern that the property will not be easily maintained by the Conservation Commission with their minimal budget. Town Manager Gaudette acknowledged that it was a win for the town since it is not receiving funding from the town and by selling a portion of it they can make some revenue off the sale and turn it over to the Conservation Commission to maintain and upkeep. Selectman Collins asked if the Windstone Development off Highland Street is affecting this area. Mr. Pickart replied that it does not and explained it stops and can't go further. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if the town were to sell the whole parcel could they put in restrictions as open space use or a land use restriction. Town Manager Gaudette reiterated that the Town owns it right now and what the Town would do is turn the land over to the Conservation Commission for the top piece and the bottom lot there would be no restrictions on. He suggested to aim for the Fall Town Meeting and between now and then get a survey of the land and a proposed A&R plan for the cut-out portion so people can see what it looks like and prepare a narrative for the layout of the land.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: 1) Key Meetings Attended: Monday, February 27, 2023 – Participated in the weekly Fire Station Design Team virtual meeting. Monday, February 27, 2023 – Met with Jeanne G, BOH Chair Lani C, and Jesse Arroyo from Envirotrac to discuss next steps with the Quaker Landfill in regard to DEP compliance with the landfill cap. Monday, February 27, 2023 – Attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting. Tuesday, February 28, 2023 – Met with Jamie L and Jon Charwick, Activitas, to discuss the bid for the Linwood Basketball project. Tuesday, February 28, 2023 – Attended the virtual meeting of the Playgrounds and Recreation Committee along with Jon Charwick, Activitas, to discuss the bid for the Linwood Basketball project. Wednesday, February March 1, 2023 – Welcomed new Town Accountant Sharon Emrick on her first day with the Town. Wednesday, February March 1, 2023 – Met with A. McKinstry and M. Walker from NPS to discuss FY2024 Budget. Wednesday, February March 1, 2023 – Met with Fire Chief David White to discuss FY2024 Budget. Wednesday, March 1, 2023 – Attended the Finance Committee Meeting. Thursday, March 2, 2023 – Participated in the Community Reading at NES. Thursday, March 2, 2023 – Attended a virtual meeting with NFP and Julie Harris to discuss our FY2024 Health Insurance Renewal. Thursday, March 2, 2023 – Attended the Fire Station project site visit meeting. Friday, March 3, 2023 – Participated in a virtual conference call with Eyepoint Pharmaceuticals for an update on the project which is currently under design. Friday, March 3, 2023 – Conference Call with the MADEP Regional Director regarding the Quaker Street landfill. Friday, March 3, 2023 – Participated in a secondary virtual meeting with NFP to discuss our FY2024 Health Insurance Renewal. Friday, March 3, 2023 – Participated in a conference call with CPC Chair Glenn King, Julie Harris and Gary Bechtholdt regarding debt schedule options for the Castle Hill purchase. Monday, March 6, 2023 – Participated in a follow-up virtual meeting with NFP to discuss our FY2024 Health Insurance Renewal. Monday, March 6, 2023 – Participated in the weekly Fire Station Design Team virtual meeting. Tuesday, March 7, 2023 – Virtual Conference Call with David Eisen, Abacus, architect for the NES Feasibility Study. Wednesday, March 8, 2023 – Attended the Finance Committee Meeting; BVT and Police Dept. presentations. Thursday, March 9, 2023 – Attended the Fire Station project site visit meeting. Miscellaneous Calls/Visits with Residents, Staff, and Board Members. Selectmen Melia asked for an update on the Quaker Street Landfill. Town Manager Gaudette noted that the town does not own the property but there was an agreement made that the Town would be able dump trash there, then there was an effort to cap the landfill and no longer use it as a landfill. Part of the capping requires monitoring the site, which then provides information. One of which the Town has been putting aside funding for well treatment for filtering of water systems at five or more homes because they found certain levels of contaminants in their water. There was a recent third party study that was conducted and they found exposed trash so DEP is preparing to come out with an order to have the cap reshaped to resolve it. They will be having a conference call next week prior to them issuing an order and then they will be responsibility of maintaining and repairing the cap between the owner the town and DEP. Selectman Melia noted that there was a company that wanted to purchase that property. Town Manager Gaudette confirmed that prior to him it was purchased by an entity with the intent to bring in contaminated soils to the site to help reshape the cap. The issue is that the town does not allow what's called Com97 Soils, based on a bylaw. Selectman Melia asked why it wouldn't be the responsibility of the owner to make these repairs. Town Manager Gaudette replied that it is because we were the ones that authorized and managed the landfill itself. **2) Fire Station Project:** Weekly design team meetings continue to occur every Monday morning and weekly construction meetings every Thursday afternoon with the project team, the GC M. O'Connor, and the site contractor Leahy. The steel envelope is completely set on the main building as well as the outbuilding framing (wood). The contractor is working on interior walls and building design systems. The Design Team continues to work through bidding questions/change order clarifications. The BPCC meets next on 3/14/2023. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if there were any hang ups on the project. Town Manager Gaudette replied that every week they discuss any issues with all committee and subcommittees involved. As of right now the only delay is for the element called a switch gear, which is relevant to providing electricity to the facility. Because it is a custom-made piece it is taking some time to build. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if the permit has been received from the State for the traffic control lights. Town Manager Gaudette replied yes. **3) Northbridge Elementary School Reuse Study:** The architect team from Abacus and the BPCC/Town Manager held a public forum presentation

on January 18, 2023 to get feedback from residents on proposed uses and layouts. An existing conditions survey is complete as is an Environmental Phase 1 and Phase 2. The BPCC has postponed the meeting for tomorrow 3.14.23 until next week but no date has been set just yet to discuss next steps which shall include finalizing a draft report for BPCC review. The Selectmen have placed an article on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant to get voter authorization to dispose of the property. Selectman Melia asked if the Town Manager is able to comment on what may come in. Town Manager Gaudette replied that they will have a draft report prior to town meeting but you won't really know until you advertise it. **4) Linwood Basketball Courts Project**: The Town only received one bid (Quirk Construction) and unfortunately it came in over budget. Thus, the plan is to go to the Spring Town Meeting and seek additional funds such that the contractor can begin construction in June and finish at the end of August. Selectman Paulhus asked if the funds would be coming from CPC funding. Town Manager Gaudette replied that it would be coming from Free Cash. **5) Cable Advisory Committee**: The Cable Advisory Committee and the Town Manager held a public hearing on January 24, 2023 at Town Hall to discuss the Franchise Agreement renewal with Charter/Spectrum. The hearing was continued to a later date. The current agreement expires at the end of May 2023. The Cable Committee recently met with Bill Hewig, Attorney from KP Law on 2/21/2023 to prepare for the next hearing date, as well as issuing the Town's points of interests to Charter. **6) FY2024 Budget and Capital Development**: The Board of Selectmen have voted to place their standard articles on the warrant, which closed last week on Friday, March 3rd. The Town Manager and Police Chief met with the Finance Committee at their meeting this past week on Wednesday, March 8th, 2023. The Committee also met with Dr. Fitzpatrick from BVT and will meet with NPS on March 15th at the Budget Public Hearing.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: Selectman Melia mentioned the Linwood Avenue sidewalk condition and asked if there was anything that could be done. Jamie Luchini replied that he wanted to make repairs several years ago, but they then got involved with the Complete Streets program and this year they are trying for a grant to repair a lot of sections on Linwood Avenue, which would include a complete rebuild of many of the intersections there and make them all ADA compliant and some paving of the road. He noted that they are waiting for the Action Grant process before spending money making repairs. Currently, it is in the budget to match what the State would provide if we were approved. If it is not approved through the grant, then they will need to make repairs.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION / 6:30 PM - Under M.G.L. c.30A, Sec. 21 #3: To discuss strategy with respect to litigation (Opioid Litigation) as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.

A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Unanimous.

Meeting Adjourned: 8:58 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Paulhus, Clerk

/mjc

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

March 13, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Visit from State Senator Ryan Fattman

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None

II. PUBLIC HEARING/None

III. A. 1) RESIGNATION: Carole Sweeney, Council on Aging
-Copy of email resignation from Carole Sweeney

2) APPOINTMENT: Stefanie Brill, Council on Aging
-Copy of letter confirming the COA Board voted to recommend appointment of Stefanie Brill
-Copy of Talent Bank Form

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT: B. Anthony Penticost, Smith Street (private way) / Condition of road/No documentation

V. DECISIONS:
C. Blackstone Valley Veterans Association/1) Request to hold a Memorial Day Parade in Whitinsville on Monday, May 29, 2023 at 10:00 AM 2) Request permission to use Memorial Park for Memorial Day exercises/Present: Dan Lessard
-Copy of email request for the parade and use of Memorial Park

D. Vote to support Treasurer's decision to borrow for 15 years for Castle Hill Farm Purchase (with CPC funds)/Present: Julie Harris, Treasurer/Collector
-Copy of letter regarding the Castle Hill Farm land acquisition
-Copy of estimated debt service for 15 years
-Copy of estimated debt service for 20 years
-Copy of estimated debt service for 30 years

E. Open Sky Community Services/Request to hang a banner across Church Street from May 21, 2023 to June 3, 2023 to advertise the Valley Friendship Tour on June 3, 2023
-Copy of email requesting to hang a banner

F. Pine Grove Cemetery Deed/1) Amy Depasquale [Lot No. 63B (South), one full grave]
-Copy of cemetery deed for Amy Depasquale [Lot No. 63B (South), one full grave]

2) Steven Sinson [Lot No. 32A & 31B, Walnut Path, two graves]
-Copy of cemetery deed for Steven Sinson [Lot No. 32A & 31B, Walnut Path, two graves]

VI. DISCUSSIONS:
Joint meeting w/ the Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials

G. Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials: Award Program Presentation/Present: Trustees Members

- Copy of award for the Community Service Award Program**
- Copy of nomination for the Community Service Award Program**

H. Conservation Commission/Request to manage Benson Road Town-Owned Land / Present: David Pickart

- Copy of memo regarding the town owned surplus property**
- Copy of maps of the potential conservation land**

VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: February 27, 2023 – March 10, 2023

VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation

IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

X. CORRESPONDENCE/None

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: 6:30 PM - Under M.G.L. c.30A, §21 #3 (Opioid Litigation) -To discuss strategy with respect to litigation, as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.
-Omitted