

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 8, 2023

A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Board Members Present: Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. Selectman Ampagoomian was absent and it is duly noted. **Also Present:** Town Manager Adam D. Gaudette.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: March 13, 2023.** A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the March 13, 2023 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. **March 13, 2023 [Exec. Sess.].** A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve but not release the March 13, 2023 [Exec. Sess.] minutes. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. **March 27, 2023.** A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the March 27, 2023 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. **April 10, 2023.** A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the April 10, 2023 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. **May 2, 2023 [SATM].** A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the May 2, 2023 [SATM] meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

### PUBLIC HEARING/None

**APPOINTMENTS: Playground & Recreation Commission/Vote to appoint: Michael Haslam [Eff. Immediately].** Mr. Dempsey noted that Mr. Haslam was unable to attend tonight's meeting. That said, He requested the Selectmen to appoint Karen Rogers immediately and to appoint Michael Haslam effective 7/1/23. The Board also discussed appointing Pascale Zayas to the Commission effective 7/1/23. Mr. Dempsey explained that they are waiting for her voter registration paperwork to be completed. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to appoint Michael Haslam and Pascale Zayas to the Playground and Recreation Commission effective 7/1/23. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. **Karen Rogers [Eff. 7/1/23]/Present: Mike Dempsey.** Mr. Dempsey introduced Ms. Rogers and explained that she would fill the current vacancy and expressed that he was looking forward to having her join the Commission. Ms. Rogers added that she is excited about this opportunity and noted that she has volunteered for many communities over the years. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Begin to appoint Karen Rogers [Eff. Immediately] to the Playground and Recreation Committee. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

### CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

**Blue Zone Integrated Fitness Studio, 102 Church Street/Request to use Memorial Park on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 11 AM to 12 PM for a one-hour outdoor yoga class [Rain date: May 20, 2023]/Present: Laura Polymeros.** Ms. Polymeros, owner of Blue Zone Integrated Fitness Studio on Church Street, stated that she was asked by the group "Girls on the Run" if she would be interested in teaching a yoga class that would help raise funds. She explained that her studio is small and only fits about 10 people so moving outdoors on the Common would allow a larger group to participate. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Begin to approve the above request to use Memorial Park on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 11 AM to 12 PM for a one-hour outdoor yoga class [Rain date: May 20, 2023]. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**Mandatory Water Restriction for non-essential outdoor water use beginning May 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023 during the hours of 9 AM to 5 PM.** DPW Director Jamie Luchini explained that

there is a clause that limits daytime watering set forth by the Whitinsville Water Company. Terence McGlone, General Manager of Whitinsville Water Company, was present to discuss the permit. He explained that they pump water under a permit that was granted by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. The current permit was issued in February of 2010 for 20 years. The permit sets limits for how much they can pump daily and annually. Within that there are requirements for water conservation, which currently runs from May 1<sup>st</sup> to September 30<sup>th</sup> during the hour of 9 AM to 5 PM. During that time, they are required to enact a water ban of non-essential watering, which includes automatic sprinklers, washing cars and homes, unless it is for a business, livestock and farms. Another requirement is to use no more than 65 gallons a day per person and if that is exceeded the water restrictions are much harsher. If a drought is passed, then the Department of Environmental Protection has a right to limit the amount of water that they can pump. Mr. McGlone proposed a banner on the bills that are coming out from Whitinsville Water Company as well as the Town, to remind people of the water ban for non-essential watering and referencing them back to the website. Mr. Luchini added that this has been in the permit for the last thirteen years and in the last several years we have experienced droughts, so the DEP is trying to take proactive measures. Selectman Paulhus asked if this was something that has been in the permit but hasn't really been enforced before this year. Mr. McGlone replied that he came on board as General Manager in June of last year, so he is not able to comment on what happened prior to that. He further expressed that it has been on their website but feels the enforcement of the ban has been lacking. Selectman Begin noted that when he first moved to town there was a water ban and his family was not aware of it until a neighbor mentioned it. He then asked what Whitinsville Water Company is doing to inform those new to town of the water restrictions and also asked about those that get electronic bills. Mr. McGlone stated they currently do not have a process for new customers, but felt it was a great idea that could be implemented. The bills that go out with the banner will go on hard copies of bills and electronic bills. Selectman Melia asked how we get the mandate eliminated and what caused this restriction to be a part of the permit. Mr. McGlone replied that the permit is a 20-year permit that will expire in the year 2030. Before it expires, they will have to go through the process of renewing the permit, so nothing will change until the permit is renewed. He further explained that with the growth going on in Town and the current limitations on the water withdrawal, he anticipates that they will go for an amendment or a new permit within the next couple of years. At that point, if they can demonstrate that they have adequate supplies and they are following the conservation measures it could be possible to get that restriction removed. Selectman Melia suggested reaching out to our representative for assistance. He also pointed out that during that last several years people saw trailer trucks siphoning water out of Meadow Pond and transporting it elsewhere during a water ban. He asked if that would take place again. Mr. McGlone replied that his understanding is a number of years ago there was a sale of water directly from the ponds but it hasn't taken place for the last 5 years or so. Mr. Luchini noted that there were trucks removing water out of the Riverdale Mills well, which is a private well, so they are allowed to do so. Selectman Collins expressed concern for the policing of this restriction. Mr. McGlone noted that he and Mr. Luchini have decided to meet and come up with a plan on how to implement this. The first line being education, informing the public as to the importance of the restriction. Second is developing some electronic means of monitoring through the water meters. And third will be partnering with the meter company they use to come up with an alert to those that are violating the restriction. Selectman Melia asked how many Whitinsville Water customers and Town customers there are. Mr. McGlone stated that he believes the Town has about 100 more customers than the Water Company. Mr. Luchini stated they are seeking a vote of the Board so they can send a note in the next billing cycle notifying customers of the restriction. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Begin to approve the banner on the next billing cycle to include a reminder about the Mandatory Water Restriction for non-essential outdoor water use beginning May 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023 during the hours of 9 AM to 5 PM. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**2023 Junk Dealers License Renewal/Pedro Martel III DBA Junk in the Trunk – Vote to renew.** A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the 2023 Junk Dealers License Renewal/Pedro Martel III DBA Junk in the Trunk. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

**Upcoming Road Projects in Northbridge/Present: Jamie Luchini, DPW Director.** Mr. Luchini reported that the Chapter 90 Funding came in level-funded at \$665,000; \$50,000 of which goes to the traffic markings. The remaining amount will go towards roads. He stated that the list can change quickly since roads can fail quickly. First on the list is Purgatory Road, sections of Main Street, from Arcade Street to pole 50 and pole 60 to pole 68, which will be cold-planed, and repaved. Secondary roads include Elston Avenue and Sherry Street. Mr. Luchini added that if the bid comes in favorable they will add more roads to the list. Selectman Paulhus asked if there were any sidewalks in the plans for repair. Mr. Luchini replied that the voters approved \$25,000 for sidewalks, and he does his best to stick as close to the budget as possible, and if there is any money left over from Chapter 90, it can be used for sidewalks. He noted that he does have a long list of sidewalks and unfortunately, they typically get through about 7 spots a year. He noted that they are at the closing sections of a Complete Streets program to address sections of Linwood Avenue, and whatever is not addressed the Town will take care of. Selectman Begin asked if sewer upgrades were a possibility for those roads that are full reclamation. Mr. Luchini replied that the process is to make sure there are no plans from Whitinsville Water, Eversource or anyone else that may need to dig up a road within the next 5 years.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None**

**SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: Selectman Begin** gave praise to Town Manager Gaudette on a job well done at the Spring Annual Town Meeting. He stated this was his first time attending town meeting and he felt the manager did a great job. **Selectman Melia** asked if the school article that was passed over would be an issue. Town Manager Gaudette explained that we are in planning for all of our buildings that are becoming vacant. He explained that it is obviously more costly to have a building longer, which also affects public safety due to vandalism, insurance and other concerns. He plans to get more information to give to the public to move forward.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**

**CORRESPONDENCE/None**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**

**A motion/Mr. Begin, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Begin, Collins, Paulhus and Melia.**

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Brian Paulhus, Clerk**

**/mjc**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTATION**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION**

**May 8, 2023**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**A. 1) March 13, 2023**

-Copy of March 13, 2023 meeting minutes

**2) March 13, 2023 [Exec. Sess.]**

Omitted

**3) March 27, 2023**

-Copy of March 27, 2023 meeting minutes

**4) April 10, 2023**

-Copy of April 10, 2023 meeting minutes

**5) May 2, 2023 [SATM]**

-Copy of May 2, 2023 [SATM] minutes

**II. PUBLIC HEARING**

**III. APPOINTMENTS: B. Playground & Recreation Commission/Vote to appoint: 1) Michael Haslam [Eff. Immediately] 2) Karen Rogers [Eff. 7/1/23]/Present: Mike Dempsey**

-Copy of memorandum recommending appointments

-Copy of talent bank form for Michael Haslam

-Copy of talent bank form for Karen Rogers

**IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT**

**V. DECISIONS:**

**C. Blue Zone Integrated Fitness Studio, 102 Church Street/Request to use Memorial Park on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 11 AM to 12 PM for a one-hour outdoor yoga class [Rain date: May 20, 2023]/Present: Laura Polymeros**

-Copy of Memorial Park Request Form

-Copy of email from the Chief of Police confirming there are no concerns

**D. Mandatory Water Restriction for non-essential outdoor water use beginning May 1, 2023 to September 30, 2023 during the hours of 9 AM to 5 PM**

-Copy of email regarding the Mandatory Water Restriction

-Copy of Water Permit

-Copy map of drought status

-Copy of water use restrictions map

**E. 2023 Junk Dealers License Renewal/Pedro Martel III DBA Junk in the Trunk – Vote to renew**

-Copy of listing of Junk Dealers

**VI. DISCUSSIONS:**

**F. Upcoming Road Projects in Northbridge/Present: Jamie Luchini, DPW Director**

- Copy of memorandum regarding upcoming road projects
- Copy of road cost estimates

**VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None**

**VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation**

**IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**

**X. CORRESPONDENCE/None**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**