

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**

**May 9, 2022**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES: May 3, 2022 [SATM].** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to approve the May 3, 2022 [SATM] minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Board members: Athanas, Cannon and Collins.

**PUBLIC HEARING / None**

**APPOINTMENTS/Resignations/None**

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**

**Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials / Request to name a Square in honor of Varoujan Edward Mooradian (Killed in Action on October 16, 1944) Present: Tom Farley and James Gallagher, Trustees.** Mr. Farley informed the Board that they are looking to erect a plaque for Northbridge resident Varoujan Edward Mooradian who was killed in World War II. Mr. Mooradian was a Private First Class of the United States Army and was killed in action on October 16, 1944, in France. The location of the plaque would be between Fletcher Street and Elm Street. A motion/Mrs. Cannon, seconded/Mr. Athanas to approve the request to name a Square in honor of Varoujan Edward Mooradian to be located between Fletcher and Elm Street. Vote yes/Athanas, Cannon and Collins. Next, Mr. Farley provided an update on the Civil War Monument. They plan to replace the cracking foundation with bricks, which should be completed by Memorial Day. Mr. Farley noted that a member is resigning and they will be looking for a Veteran to serve on the Trustees.

**Conservation Fund / Vote to accept monetary donations from: 1) David and Gretchen Pickart (\$350) and 2) Barbara and Brian Kinney (\$75.00).** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to accept a monetary donation from David and Gretchen Pickart in the amount of \$350 dollars and from Barbara and Brian Kinney in the amount of \$75 dollars towards the Conservation Fund. Vote yes/Athanas, Cannon and Collins.

**Pine Grove Cemetery Deed / Bronja and Richard Cardeiro [Lot No. 3, two graves, Yew Ave. South].** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mrs. Cannon to approve the sale of Lot No. 3 (two graves), Yew Ave. South to Bronja and Richard Cardeiro. Vote yes/Athanas, Cannon and Collins.

**250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee / Application for a one-day Wines & Malts License for a fundraising event to take place from 7:00 pm – 12:00 am, Saturday, May 21, 2022 at the Northbridge Town Hall (Great Hall), 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588.** This item was postponed to a future meeting.

**Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Report (Stephanie Covino, Blackstone Watershed Collaborative) / Present: David Pickart, Conservation Agent.** Mr. Pickart noted that this matter came before the Conservation Commission and they unanimously voted to support it, however, it does require further approval from the Town, which is why it is on tonight's agenda for discussion. The program that

started a year ago, falls under the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and receives Federal funding. Recently, the program has expanded outside the Narragansett Bay to its major tributary, the Blackstone River. They created a position with Clark University, which is led by Stephanie Covino. The program produced a report, which they then ask their stakeholders to buy in to the proposed initiatives. Mr. Pickart explained the importance of having a municipal buy-in, stating that if we buy in but the communities north of us do not then anything we do will not have long term benefits. Some of the initiatives the town is already doing like land preservation, wetland restoration strategy, which is currently underway. Mr. Pickart explained that the Conservation Commission is looking into getting grants to restore degraded wetlands. Low impact development practices, which they will bring before the Board regarding the MVP project includes a big portion of retrofitting the stormwater controls for better uptake of nutrients and pollutants that affect water quality.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Town Manager's Report for the period of April 25, 2022 – May 6, 2022. Key Meetings Attended:** 1) Monday, April 25, 2022 – Attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting. Tuesday, April 26, 2022 – Met with IT Director Scott Motyka and Help, Inc. regarding media improvements in the First Floor Conference Room. Wednesday, April 27, 2022 – Held a Public Forum to present the Annual Ballot Questions (Fire Station, Civil Service, and Charter Amendments) and answer any resident questions. Friday, April 29, 2022 – Held a Department Head Meeting to prepare for Town Meeting. Friday, April 29, 2022 – Met with the Town Moderator and Staff to prepare for Town Meeting. Monday, May 2, 2022 – Participated in a weekly Fire Station Project call. Monday, May 2, 2022 – Attended a Cable Advisory Meeting. Monday, May 2, 2022 – Attended the BPCC Meeting to discuss the Fire Station bids. Tuesday, May 3, 2022 – Attended and presented at the Spring Annual Town Meeting. Wednesday, May 4, 2022 – Attended a Library Trustees Meeting. **Fire Station Project:** The General bids were received last week on Thursday, April 28<sup>th</sup>. The low bid was submitted by M. O'Connor, approximately \$576,000 under what was expected. The BPCC voted this past Monday to award the bid to M. O'Connor pending all Town approvals, contract documents, and a Notice to Proceed. The Spring Annual Town Meeting voted this past Tuesday to approve an additional \$3,755,182 in borrowing for the project contingent upon the Ballot Question for the Debt Exclusion passing on May 17, 2022. 2) **Northbridge Elementary School Reuse Study:** The architect team from Abacus is performing initial due diligence and is beginning the market analysis. They will be meeting with several key stakeholders in the next week or two before conducting a public meeting with BPCC on initial thoughts. 3) **Fire Department Radio Communications Study:** Chief White and Chief Labrie are working with the firm CTA on the project which is on-going. 4) **Fire Department Strategic Plan:** The Fire Chief and staff continue to work with the consultant CPSM for this project which is on-going. 5) **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA):** Now that the recommended Funding Project Plan has been approved, projects are able to move forward. The Town Manager is putting together contracts with the non-profits and departments will need to coordinate necessary procurements. 6) **FY2023 Budget and SATM Warrant:** The Spring Annual Town Meeting was held this past Tuesday, May 3, 2022 with approximately 75 registered voters attending. All 21 articles were approved overwhelmingly (Article 22 was passed over). The Annual Election will be held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 with 4 ballot questions as well as elections for boards and committees. Town Manager Gaudette thanked everyone who came out for the Town meeting. He reminded everyone that Tuesday, May 17, 2022 from 7 AM to 8 PM is the town annual election, where there will be four ballot questions. More information is available on our website at [www.northbridgemass.org](http://www.northbridgemass.org).

The board agreed to move Correspondence out of order ahead of Selectmen's concerns.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Mr. Luchini explained that he sent a memo to the Town Manager reviewing the roads program for this year and added since the budget was approved by Town Meeting, he has accurate numbers. He also stated the Town received the usual amount of Chapter 90 funds from the state at about \$465,000. In addition, there was a winter recovery amount of \$260,000. Mr. Luchini noted that the additional funds are great, however, with oil prices so high it also reflects on the asphalt prices, so the plan

had to be modified. Some roads have failed pre-maturely, leaving large potholes and damaged roads in two sections of town that need to be addressed. The plan is to do a lot of cold planing work, which will be a little cheaper and allow the additional funds to stretch a lot further. Streets being completed are as follows: Mendon Road - from approximately 205 Mendon Road to the West River Bridge; School Street - from Church Ave. all the way to Quaker Street; Church Street - from the Library up to Ovia Square; and Church Street Extension - which will be one lane from the railroad bridge up and around the island. Roads that will undergo reclamation are the beginning Carr Street to help with the water drainage issue off Main Street and overlay the rest of the road; and South Street coming from Upton to Mendon Road. Mr. Luchini noted that they will be going out to bid and if the numbers come back low they will be able to add some more roads to the list. Selectman Athanas asked if the residents and businesses would be alerted when construction begins. Mr. Luchini responded that they will be notified and the impact should not be bad. Selectman Collins asked about the cold planing process. Mr. Luchini described that they grind the road down two inches to get to the base but sometimes it exposes areas that have no base so they put in a leveling course. Selectman Collins followed up asking when the process will begin. Mr. Luchini replied that it will go out to bid on Wednesday, with a bid opening at the end of May and then it will be a matter of scheduling it with the company that wins the bid.

**SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS:** Selectman Cannon/1) provided an update from the 250<sup>th</sup> Committee, who is in the process of securing participants for the parade that will be held on Saturday, July 16, 2022 at 10 AM followed by fireworks in the evening. 2) announced the Committee is working on a small fundraising event and hopes to have more details soon. 3) stated that they are also working with the Historical Commission on the trolley tours. 4) provided an update on the Bylaw Review Committee, they continue to meet and review the bylaws. **Selectman Athanas** announced that this is his last meeting as he is not running for re-election but that it has been a great 12 years. He thanked everyone for their support through the years and stated he has had a great time and enjoyed serving.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION / None**

**A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Cannon to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Athanas, Cannon and Collins.**

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:23 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Russell D. Collins, Clerk**

/mjc

**LIST OF DOCUMENTATION**

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

**May 9, 2022**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**A. May 3, 2022 [SATM]**

**-Copy of May 3, 2022 [SATM] minutes**

**II. PUBLIC HEARING / None**

**III. APPOINTMENTS/Resignations/None**

**IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**

**V. DECISIONS:**

**B. Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials / Request to name a square in honor of Varoujan Edward Mooradian (Killed in Action on October 16, 1944) Present: Tom Farley, Trustee  
-Copy of Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials Report**

**C. Conservation Fund / Vote to accept monetary donations from: 1) David and Gretchen Pickart (\$350) and 2) Barbara and Brian Kinney (\$75.00)  
-Copy of Memo regarding the Conservation Fund Donations**

**D. Pine Grove Cemetery Deed / Bronja and Richard Cardeiro [Lot No. 3, two graves, Yew Ave., South]  
-Copy of Pine Grove Cemetery Deed**

**E. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee / Application for a one-day Wines & Malts License for a fundraising event to take place from 7:00 pm – 12:00 am, Saturday, May 21, 2022 at the Northbridge Town Hall (Great Hall), 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA 01588  
-No documentation as this item was passed over**

**VI. DISCUSSIONS:**

**F. Blackstone River Watershed Needs Assessment Report (Stephanie Covino, Blackstone Watershed Collaborative) / Present: David Pickart, Conservation Agent  
- Copy of Draft Resolution in support of the Blackstone River Needs Assessment Report**

**VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

**G. Town Manager's Report for the period of April 25, 2022 – May 6, 2022  
Copy of Town Manager's Report for the period of April 25, 2022 – May 6, 2022**

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

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

**X. CORRESPONDENCE/No documentation**

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**