

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

October 2, 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: Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins and Paulhus. Selectman Melia is 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: 1) **May 22, 2023.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the May 22, 2023 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins and Paulhus. 2) **June 12, 2023.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to approve the June 12, 2023 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins and Paulhus.

PUBLIC HEARING/None

The Board moved on to other agenda items as some members of the Trustees and Soldiers Memorials were not yet present.

APPOINTMENTS / Joint Appointment by the Board of Selectmen and Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials. The Trustees requested this item be delayed for a few minutes as they were waiting for another member to show up and Chairman Collins concurred.

APPOINTMENTS / Joint Appointment by the Board of Selectmen and Northbridge Housing Authority. Since the applicant, Nancy Hill, was not present, Chairman Collins announced that the Selectmen would defer this matter to a future agenda.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

Northbridge Cub Scout Pack 150, Boy Scout Troop 155 & Veterans / Request to use Memorial Park on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 10 AM to 2 PM for a Flag Retirement Ceremony. **Present:** Mr. Charles Thompspon, Jack Thompson, and Joe Theberge were present to discuss this request. Mr. Jack Thompson stated that they are looking to hold a flag retirement ceremony, since there has not been one held in some time. He noted that a lot of scouts have not seen a flag retirement ceremony. The plan is to set up a metal trash can on cement blocks to avoid damaging the grass and to have water nearby. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Begin to approve the above request to use Memorial Park on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 10 AM to 2 PM for a Flag Retirement Ceremony. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins and Paulhus.

Benson Road Town-Owned Land (formerly Olson)/Vote to transfer stewardship to the Conservation Commission. **Present: David Pickart, Conservation Agent.** Mr. Pickart provided a quick overview stating there are two parcels of land for a total of 36.6 acres with access from Benson Road immediately west of Leonardo Estates. He noted that a majority of the site is undevelopable, but he is a fan of carving off a section of it to get some tax revenue from it. The Commission, pending the transfer, has no initial plans for the parcel other than to leave it as is and preserve it. Selectman Begin asked about the areas of encroachment being a cause for concern and if the Conservation Commission has thought about requiring the abutter to remove them. Mr. Pickart stated that it is something that would be looked into. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Begin to transfer stewardship of the Benson Road Town-Owned Land to the Conservation Commission. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins and Paulhus.

Chairman Collins announced that the Board would be moving back to Appointments.

APPOINTMENTS / Joint Appointment by the Board of Selectmen and Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials. Present: Tom Farley, Richard Trier, and Jeffrey Manion, Members of the Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials. 1) Mike DeFazio (Veteran). Mr. Farley informed the Selectmen that there are two vacancies on the Trustees Of Soldiers' Memorials Board for Veterans. He stated that Mr. DeFazio is interested in serving on the Trustees noting that he does a lot for Veterans and he would be a great addition to the Trustees Board. Mr. Trier added that Mr. DeFazio is currently working on a project uncovering gravestones in cemeteries all over Northbridge. Mr. DeFazio then spoke and stated he is a Veteran and that he started a non-profit organization for Veterans. He also said he has done a lot of work in the cemeteries as previously mentioned. The Board thanked him for coming forward to serve on the Trustees' Board. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Begin to appoint Mr. DeFazio to the Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins, Paulhus, Farley, Trier, and Manion.

Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter "Festival of Trees" Event, [December 1, 2023 – December 3, 2023] in the Northbridge Town Hall [Great Hall] located at 7 Main Street, Whitinsville: 1) Application for a one-day Wines License [Friday, December 1, 2023 from 5 PM – 7 PM only]; and 2) Application for a one-day Entertainment License [Friday, December 1, 2023 5 PM – 7 PM and Saturday, December 2, 2023 10 AM – 7 PM] (Live and/or Recorded music)/Present: Leslie Reichert. Ms. Reichert stated that other towns have similar tree events and they are looking to hold one to raise money for the homeless shelter. Ms. Reichert explained that they are going to businesses and asking families to donate a tree, which they can decorate to be raffled off. Those that attend the event can buy raffle tickets and select the trees they would like to win, and at the end of the festival they will pick the winners to bring the trees home. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Begin to approve: **1) Application for a one-day Wines License [Friday, December 1, 2023 from 5 PM – 7 PM only]; and 2) Application for a one-day Entertainment License [Friday, December 1, 2023 5 PM – 7 PM and Saturday, December 2, 2023 10 AM – 7 PM] (Live and/or Recorded music).** Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins and Paulhus.

RFP Response for 193 Main Street (Fire Station Headquarters Building & Property)/Present: David Michaud, Old New England Construction, Inc. and Attorney Thomas Wickstrom. Atty. Wickstrom stated that at the last meeting, Mr. Michaud presented a conceptual overview of what he would do with the Fire Station. At this point, the Board would need to vote to enter into an agreement and after that Atty. Wickstrom and Town Counsel would begin working on the agreement to move forward. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Begin to allow the Town Manager to enter into a Purchase and Sale Agreement for 193 Main Street, Fire Station Headquarters. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Begin, Collins and Paulhus.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: Selectman Ampagoomian/1) mentioned that on Providence Road heading south before the Sewer Department someone dumped bedroom furniture and asked the DPW to take care of it. **2)** stated that the Whitinsville Water Company updated some mains to increase water flow and have not come back to repave those streets. Town Manager Gaudette explained that what our policy states is that we are required to wait one construction season for everything to settle and with the weather the way it has been has not allowed for paving projects to move forward. **3)** asked if the stripping on Main Street has been completed. Town Manager Gaudette replied it has not and neither has Purgatory Road. **4)** asked if there was an update on the cannabis facility that was approved. Town Manager Gaudette replied that the town approved two, one of which is a dispensary in Commerce Park and it is open. The second one that was approved on Main Street heading towards 146 and there has been no advancement on that. He

stated they have not yet submitted anything to the Planning Board. Ampagoomian asked that if anything could be done to rescind their approval since they have not acted on it. Town Manager Gaudette replied that the Board could approve hundreds of Host Community Agreements if they wanted to but only two are allowed. So in the meantime another organization came in to request an agreement they could and it would be contingent upon a certificate of occupancy, which the current establishment has not received. **Selectmen Paulhus** announced that there are open seats for the School Committee for anyone that is interested as well as the Northbridge Beautification Committee is looking for volunteers to help with the Holiday Light celebration.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

Chairman Collins announce that the next meeting is scheduled for October 16, 2023.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:28 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Begin, Clerk

/mjc

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

October 2, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: A. 1) May 22, 2023

-Copy of May 22, 2023 meeting minutes

2) June 12, 2023

-Copy of June 12, 2023 meeting minutes

II. PUBLIC HEARING

III. APPOINTMENTS: B. Joint Appointment by the Board of Selectmen and Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials: Mike DeFazio, Veteran/Present: Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials Board Members

-Copy Talent Bank Form

C. Joint Appointment by the Board of Selectmen and Northbridge Housing Authority: Nancy Hill/Present: Northbridge Housing Authority Board Members and Brett Lambert, Exec. Dir. of the NHA

-Copy Talent Bank Form

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

V. DECISIONS:

D. Northbridge Cub Scout Pack 150, Troop 155 & Veteran's/Request to use Memorial Park on Saturday, November 11, 2023 from 10 AM to 2 PM for a Flag Retirement Ceremony/Present: Cub Scout Representative

-Copy of email request

-Copy of Memorial Park Request Form

-Copy of Hold Harmless Agreement

-Copy of Certificate of Liability

E. Benson Road Town-Owned Land (formerly Olson)/Vote to transfer stewardship to the Conservation Commission/Present: David Pickart, Conservation Agent

-Copy of maps

F. Blackstone Valley Emergency Shelter "Festival of Trees" Event, [December 1, 2023 – December 3, 2023] in the Great Hall located at 7 Main Street, Whitinsville: 1) Application for a one-day Wines License [Friday, December 1, 2023 from 5 PM – 7 PM only]; and 2) Application for a one-day Entertainment License [Friday, December 1, 2023 5 PM – 7 PM and Saturday, December 2, 2023 10 AM – 7 PM] (Live and/or Recorded music)/Present: Leslie Reichert

-Copy of email request

-Copy one-day license application

-Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation

- Copy of Hold Harmless Agreement
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Affidavit
- Copy of TIPS Certification
- Copy of One-day entertainment application
- Copy of Articles of Organization
- Copy of layout

VI. DISCUSSIONS

G. RFP Response for 193 Main Street (Fire Station Headquarters Building & Property)/Present: David Michaud, Old New England Construction, Inc.

- Copy of presentation of the proposal

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