

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

**October 4, 2021**

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

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

Chairman Ampagoomian 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 or litigating position of the body.

A motion/Mr. seconded/Mr. to go into Executive Session under 6:30 PM Under MGL c.30A, Sec. 21 #1 - To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual; and to reconvene in open session. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Athanas/Yes, Mr. Ampagoomian/Yes, Mrs. Cannon/Yes, Mr. Collins/Yes, and Mr. Melia/Yes.

**Open Session Adjourned: 6:31 PM**

**Executive Session Convened: 6:32 PM**

**Executive Session Adjourned: 6:40 PM**

**Open Session Reconvened: 7:00 PM**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None**

**PUBLIC HEARING/None**

**APPOINTMENTS: By the Board of Selectmen (Vote to Appoint):**

**250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee: 1) Anthony Genga and 2) David Potty.** Mr. Potty explained that he remembers the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary and would like to be involved with the 250<sup>th</sup>. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mrs. Collins to appoint Anothony Genga and David Potty to the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT:** Elizabeth and Paul Lachapelle, 1216 Providence Road, reside near the Valley Pub and came forward to voice their concerns about the entertainment license that is held by that establishment. Ms. Lachapelle mentioned that she has been speaking with the Town Manager about this issue and that her main complaint is about the permitted hours. She said the Valley Pub's entertainment license is valid for indoor and outdoor events Monday through Saturday from 8 AM to 2 AM indoors and 8 AM to 1 AM outdoors. She acknowledged that they have bands mainly on Friday and Saturday nights, acoustic music on Thursday nights, and occasional bands on Sundays ending around 10 PM. Ms. Lachapelle stated that their entertainment license allows them to have a band any night of the week until 1 AM outdoors. She said they had a band on a Monday night that started at 7 PM and was still going on at 9:15 PM. The police were called and the dispatcher inquired about the matter with her Sergeant and returned a call to Ms. Lachapelle who was told that they have an entertainment license. Ms. Lachapelle asked about a noise ordinance and was told there was no ordinance in Northbridge. She inquired about Sunday entertainment, as it was not listed on the copy of the license she received, and if there is a different permit for that. Selectman Melia noted that he would be willing to take the appropriate steps to revise their license.

Selectman Melia asked Ms. Lachapelle what she would be happy with. Ms. Lachapelle stated no live outdoor music Mondays, Tuesdays, and Wednesdays. She would be fine with acoustic music on Thursday nights ending at 9 PM or Sunday afternoons, but any live bands would need to be on Fridays and Saturdays, ending by 10PM, which they have been ending around 10/10:30 PM. Ms. Lachapelle expressed further concern for the amount of people they are now able to seat outdoors and the limited parking, resulting in cars parking on the road, making the road too narrow for emergency personnel to navigate. Selectman Melia noted that he would like to hear from the Police Department as to whether any complaints have been filed and feels it would be best to hold a public hearing with notification to the abutters so they may attend the meeting to express any concerns. Discussion continued regarding cars parking along the road and it was suggested that after the hearing, that be brought to the Safety Committee to be further investigated. No parking signs used to be posted all the way down the street that stated no parking from 8 PM – 8 AM but the signs are no longer there. Chief Labrie agreed that it is a good idea to get ahead of the issue and advised neighbors to call the Police Department with any issues so that it is documented and the Police will do what they can. Tim and Patricia Lachapelle, 47 Plummer Ave., who live directly across the street from the Valley Pub had concerns as well. Mr. Lachapelle stated that he has called the Police a few times and explained that the noise is unreasonably loud, even with the windows up and the TV on. He noted their house is 300 plus feet away and it shakes the windows. Mr. Lachapelle mentioned they have to clean the street on a weekly basis of trash left behind from patrons. They have also experienced property damage to their fence three times in the last six months. Mr. Lachapelle reported that he was working in his yard one Saturday and came out to find a patron urinating in the Valley Pub parking lot. He said that the motorcycles leaving every night are extremely loud. Finally, Mr. Lachapelle proposed that the abutters receive a notification prior to the hearing. Town Manager Gaudette replied that he is notifying those present tonight that the hearing will be on October 18<sup>th</sup>, as M.G.L. only requires we notify the licensee of the hearing and does not require us to notify abutters. Selectman Melia asked Mr. Lachapelle what he felt would be appropriate action by the Board. Mr. Lachapelle felt they should eliminate any outdoor activity, and feels they should have a Police Detail. Ms. Lachapelle felt that it should be better monitored and expressed that the owner is making a living off this business and does not want her to lose out on business but expressed again that it needs to be better monitored. Selectman Collins requested the Town Manager get the Board information on the capacity of Valley Pub for the inside and outside as well as the number of cars allowed in the lot. Ann Marie Varjabedian, 73 Plummer Ave., noted that she is at the end of the street and it is just as loud as what was described. The cars parking along the street is also an issue, which makes concern for occupancy issues. She also noted there was an inebriated driver that came down the dead end and crashed his vehicle. Selectman Melia requested Town Manager Gaudette to ask the Safety Committee to look into the parking issue. Charles and Kendra Dubiel, 59 Plummer Ave., noted that their parking lot has an issue with water in the lot and the patrons who park on the street leave litter all over the place. She added that the music is very loud. The Selectmen decided to hold a public hearing on October 18<sup>th</sup>, with Valley Pub manager and the abutters present.

**DECISIONS/None**

**DISCUSSIONS/None**

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None**

**SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/None**

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**

**CORRESPONDENCE/None**

Town Manager Gaudette reminded those watching that the Fall Annual Town Meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 26<sup>th</sup> at 7 PM in the Northbridge Middle School Auditorium.

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: A. 6:30 PM Under M.G.L c.30A, Sec. 21 #1 - To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual.**

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

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:40 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Russell D. Collins, Clerk**

**/mjc**

**LIST OF DOCUMENTATION**

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

**October 4, 2021**

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None**
- II. PUBLIC HEARING/None**
- III. APPOINTMENTS/By the Board of Selectmen: (Vote to Appoint): B. 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee: 1) Anthony Genga**
  - Copy of Talent Bank form for Anthony Genga
  - 2) David Potty**
  - Copy of Talent Bank form for David Potty
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/No documentation**
- V. DECISIONS/None**
- VI. DISCUSSIONS/None**
- VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None**
- VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/None**
- IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**
- X. CORRESPONDENCE/None**
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION: A. 6:30 PM Under M.G.L c.30A, Sec. 21 #1 - To discuss the reputation, character, physical condition or mental health rather than the professional competence of an individual.**