

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING**  
**October 5, 2020**

A virtual meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Alicia Cannon at 7:00 PM, using Zoom Meeting Software. Board Members Present: Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon, Collins and Melia. **Also Present:** Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager.

Chairman Cannon read the following statement aloud: Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings of the Northbridge Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** 1) **June 8, 2020.** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the June 8, 2020 minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Melia. Abstain: Collins. 2) **June 22, 2020.** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the June 22, 2020 meeting minutes as presented with the readings omitted. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Melia. Abstain: Collins.

**PUBLIC HEARING**

**APPOINTMENTS: By the Board of Selectmen [Vote to appoint] /1) Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission – a) Second Delegate** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Collins to nominate Selectman Melia as the second Delegate. Vote yes/Unanimous. **b) Alternate.** A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to nominate Chairman Cannon as the Alternate. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**

**Open Sky - Hope Garden Project/Request to plant tulip gardens in Memorial Park in support of Mental Health Awareness Week [October 4 to October 10]/Present: Cristi Collari, Director of Community Outreach.** Chairman Cannon announced that Open Sky withdrew their request as they will be locating the garden in another location.

**State Election Warrant [November 3, 2020]/Vote to sign.** A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Collins to sign the State Election Warrant for November 3, 2020. Vote yes/Unanimous.

**Halloween / Guidance from the Dept. of Public Health.** Town Manager Gaudette stated that the Department of Public Health released COVID Guidelines through the CDC for Trick or Treating. The flyer listing the guidelines is available to view on the Town's website at [www.northbridgemass.org](http://www.northbridgemass.org). Town Manager Gaudette stated that most towns are advising the public of these guidelines if they choose to hand out candy and for those who choose to go door-to-door trick or treating.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT:** 1) **Key Meetings Attended:** Tuesday, September 22, 2020 – Participated in the Lt Governor's Town Managers meeting via Zoom. Wednesday, September 23, 2020 – Attended the Building, Planning, Construction Committee Meeting via Zoom. Wednesday, September 23, 2020 – Attended the Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom. Thursday, September 24, 2020 – Met with Selectman Melia to discuss Board of Selectmen's agenda. Thursday, September 24, 2020 – Met with Chief White and Chief Warchol to discuss personnel transitions. Monday, September 28, 2020 – Participated in the Board of Selectmen Meeting via Zoom. Tuesday, September 29, 2020 – Participated in MMA Fiscal

Policy Committee Meeting via Zoom. **2) Balmer School Building Project:** Project construction by Fontaine Brothers continues with precautionary measures in place per State construction guidelines for construction projects moving forward during the pandemic. The majority of the site work has been completed allowing for work to begin in the interior of the building (framing, etc.). The Town Manager has been involved with obtaining access agreements from abutters who have received plantings and other work on their property as part of providing screening from the project. **3) Lasell Field Turf Project:** The project is nearing completion. The GC Green Acres is working through punch list items. The bleachers and press box should be completed this Saturday but won't be operational until the lift is completed next week and has permit sign-offs. Final lighting should be completed next week as well. Teams will start practicing this coming week and game-play may be possible the week after when substantial completion has hopefully occurred by 10/16. Chairman Cannon asked if there was a plan to do an official opening or ribbon cutting. Town Manager Gaudette stated they have not had any discussion yet, but he will reach out to the company to see if they have any thoughts. **4) Fire Station Project:** The BPCC has reviewed and authorized the RFQ for the OPM which will be advertised October 14<sup>th</sup>. **5) FY2021 Budget and Annual Spring and Fall Town Meetings:** The Town Meeting Warrant has been posted. There are two housekeeping articles (prior year bills / revise omnibus budget) and a road acceptance article, as well as two petition articles (road discontinuance and Solar PILOT). The Finance Committee has voted to support all 5 articles and the warrant booklet has been prepared. Town Counsel is currently reviewing the draft motions.

**SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS:** **Selectman Melia 1)** asked if any work had been completed on the Linwood playground basketball courts from the Recreation CPA funds that were approved at Town meeting. Town Manager Gaudette replied that we received quotes from the turf field project designer for the basketball courts located at the Linwood playground and the work was going to cost over \$200,000 dollars. The plan is to go back to town meeting in the spring to get the remaining portion of the funds needed. **2)** asked about the LED Streetlight project, the completion date and any issues that have come up, as it has been in the works for some time now. Town Manager Gaudette stated that the project is close to completion and post project there is an audit by the designer. The tasks we've been dealing with have been administrative. The first is the grant that was approved for the project and requires certain documentation, which we have been compiling. The second is working with National Grid to get the lights transferred over to the town, which also causes a change in the charges. Selectman Melia asked who would be used for maintenance when lights go out. The Town Manager said that Daigle received the contract for the Streetlight project and would be responsible for warranties and any repairs. **3)** noticed that a portion of the Pine Grove Cemetery was paved, and it looks great. Jamie Luchini stated that the money that was granted was spent on the paving and the DPW plans to keep chipping away at the paving when more funds become available. Selectman Melia asked about the sign for Pine Grove located on Linwood Ave. if it could be sandblasted and repainted. Mr. Luchini stated he would look into getting sum numbers in the Spring. **4)** asked if there was an update on Burger King coming back and re-opening. Town Manager Gaudette stated that there hasn't been anything that has come before the Town Manager's Office as of yet, but it is possible there is discussion. Town Manager Gaudette stated that he would reach out to the Planning Board for an update. **Selectman Athanas** asked if the snow equipment was ready to go. Mr. Luchini stated the mechanic has been working on an older fleet and getting everything ready. **Selectman Ampagoomian** asked about the paving on Church Street. Mr. Luchini stated that the contractor walked it last week and it will be scheduled.

**ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**

**CORRESPONDENCE/None**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**

Chairman Cannon stated that the next meeting is scheduled for October 19, 2020.

A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mrs. Athanas to adjourn the public meeting. Vote yes/Board Members Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon, Collins and Melia.

**Meeting Adjourned: 7:20 PM**

**Respectfully submitted,**

**Russel Collins, Clerk**

**/mjc**

## **LIST OF DOCUMENTATION**

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

**October 5, 2020**

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**
  - A. 1) June 8, 2020**
    - Copy of June 8, 2020 Meeting minutes
  - 2) June 22, 2020**
    - Copy of June 22, 2020 meeting minutes
- II. PUBLIC HEARING**
- III. APPOINTMENTS/B. By the Board of Selectmen [Vote to appoint] B. 1) Central Mass. Regional Planning Commission – a) Second Delegate b) Alternate**
  - Copy of letter from Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission requesting the appointment of Delegates and Alternates
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT**
- V. DECISIONS:**
  - C. Open Sky - Hope Garden Project/Request to plant tulip gardens in Memorial Park in support of Mental Health Awareness Week [October 4 to October 10]/Present: Cristi Collari, Director of Community Outreach**
    - Request cancelled
  - D. State Election Warrant [November 3, 2020]/Vote to sign**
    - Copy of the 2020 State Election Warrant
- VI. DISCUSSIONS:**
  - E. Halloween / Guidance from the Dept. of Public Health**
    - Copy of email with Halloween guidance
    - Copy of tips for Halloween safety from Mass.gov
    - Copy of Halloween guidelines flyer
- VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/No documentation**
- VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/No documentation**
- IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**
- X. CORRESPONDENCE/None**
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**