BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING February 22, 2021

A virtual meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Alicia Cannon at 7:00 PM, using Zoom Video Communication (Video Conferencing App). Board Members Present: Cannon, Athanas, Ampagoomian, and Collins. Also Present: Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager. Selectman Melia was absent and it is duly noted.

Chairman Cannon asked all attendees to mute their microphones unless they are speaking or wish to speak. Inappropriate comments and/or disruptive behavior will result in immediate dismissal.

Chairman Cannon read the following 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/None

Chairman Cannon announced that the Board would be moving to the appointments as it was not yet time for the posted hearings.

APPOINTMENTS/By the Town Manager: Compost Site Monitors: 1) Thomas Chiacchia and 2) Paul Moberg (Back-up). Town Manager Gaudette stated that there is a vacancy for the Site Monitor position at the compost site. Mr. Chiacchia stated that he lives in town and retired as a Merchant Marine after 33 years of service. He said he has frequently visited the compost facility and took an interest in the position. Mr. Moberg stated that he also lives in town and stated that he served 6 years in the Navy and enjoys the outdoors. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of the Compost Site Monitor Thomas Chiacchia and back up Site Monitor Paul Moberg. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins.

Chairman Cannon stated that the time is now 7:05 PM and the Board would be moving to the first public hearing.

PUBLIC HEARINGS: 1) 7:05 PM – Stone Hill Partners, LLC (John Boucher) – Application for Underground Storage Tank License to store 31,000 gallons of propane (38 – 500 gal. tanks and 12 – 1,000 gal. tanks) on property located at 510 Church Street, Whitinsville [Stone Hill Condominiums]/Present: John Boucher, REPM, Inc. Builders & Developers & John Holmes, Devaney Energy. Chairman Cannon read aloud the public hearing notice. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Collins to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins, and Cannon. Mr. Holmes explained that they are looking to run each duplex or triplex on one tank as designated on the plans. Town Manager Gaudette clarified that the application is for 38 – 500 gal. tanks and 12 – 1,000 gal. tanks. Continuing, Mr. Holmes advised that the locations of the tanks will be in conjunction with the fire code as well as all of the setbacks. He said the first 6 to 8 units should be ready within a month. Mr. Boucher stated that the project currently has pavement up to the top of the hill and utilities are in place and the single-unit model home and will have sheetrock and plaster by the end of this week. He added that there are also 2 duplexes that have completed roofs, HVAC and electrical, and they are ready for plumbing. The building next to it has walls up and another duplex has the foundation poured. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if there was a report available from the Fire Department and also inquired as to why they chose to go

with propane and not natural gas. Mr. Boucher responded that they chose propane due to a backup with the gas company in Northbridge and also mentioned that they would not have been able to meet their schedule. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if there would be further blasting for the underground tanks. Mr. Holmes replied that he didn't believe so and the blasting should be completed by then. Selectman Ampagoomian asked what safety protocols are in place if there is a mishap. Mr. Holmes answered that they have an emergency response system between the fire department and their company, which is located in Mendon, and they have a 24-hour crew for any issues that arise. Selectman Collins asked if there was only one entrance going into the development. Mr. Boucher said initially there was talk about having a second entrance but the residents in the neighborhood it would have been accessed through voiced concerns and did not want it. So he explained that the Planning Board instead voted that the single entryway be wider to give more room for access. Selectman Athanas asked if the development would be done in one phase and how long before the project is completed. Mr. Boucher explained that they would like to complete the project as quickly as possible but a lot of it depends on the economy. He also said the initial plan is to complete the project in 3 to 4 years. Chairman Cannon asked if there were any abutters present that would like to speak with respect to the application for the underground storage tanks. Mary Parenteau, 81 Deane Way asked if the propane tanks would be going in before the blasting for the foundation and how much more blasting is there to go. Mr. Holmes stated that the tanks would go in after the foundations. Mr. Boucher added that they are at the tail end of the blasting and are looking at most for 4 more weeks. Ms. Parenteau asked if they plan to use any sound barriers when they proceed with blasting. Mr. Holmes stated that the blasting should be completed on that side of the property and they have moved to the back side. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Athanas to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins, and Cannon. A motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Collins to approve the application for an Underground Storage Tank License to store 31,000 gallons of propane (38 - 500 gal. tanks and 12 - 1,000 gal. tanks) on property located at 510 Church Street, Whitinsville [Stone Hill Condominiums]. Vote ves/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins.

The Board of Selectmen moved to agenda items D and C as the National Grid representative was having technical difficulties.

Election Tabulators / 1) Vote to use ImageCast Precinct Optical Tabulator at the Annual Town Election on May 18, 2021, and thereafter, at all Primaries, Preliminary Elections and Elections held in the Town of Northbridge. 2) Vote to discontinue use of the Accu-Vote Optical Scanner in any and all elections held in the Town of Northbridge. Town Manager Gaudette explained that at last year's town meeting funds were set aside for replacing the existing election tabulators. He stated that the Town Clerk, Mrs. Zywien, is handling the process of working with the State to get the equipment. Thus, the vote tonight will discontinue use of the Accu-Vote Optical Scanners and use the ImageCast Precinct Optical Tabulators. Mrs. Zywien further explained that the Accu-Vote Optical Scanners were purchased in 2004 and they are no longer being made, nor are the parts, so maintenance will be an issue in the future. She also noted that since another precinct will be added and she would need to purchase voting equipment for a new precinct, she is looking to take care of it all at once. A motion/Mr. Collins seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the use of ImageCast Precinct Optical Tabulators at the Annual Town Election on May 18, 2021, and thereafter, at all Primaries, Preliminary Elections and Elections held in the Town of Northbridge. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins.

National Grid/ Request permission to remove and or prune twenty-two (22) Hazardous public shade trees [Quaker Street, Church Street, Main Street, School Street & Sutton Street]/Present: James Shuris, DPW Director & Jenna Peterson, National Grid. Ms. Peterson explained that the Hazard Tree Mitigation program is specifically for high-risk trees, which are town trees that are either dead or are high risk to power lines. She said the service is free to the town and residents and they will work with residents who may have trees on their property as to how the work will be completed. Ms. Peterson added that

residents will be notified and request permission prior to the trees being taken down. Selectman Athanas asked when the work would be scheduled and how long it would take. Ms. Peterson replied that she is not sure on the exact date, but the crews have been assigned, so it would be beginning within the next month and they complete about 40 trees a week, so it would be a couple weeks long. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Collins to grant permission to remove and/or prune twenty-two (22) Hazardous public shade trees [Quaker Street, Church Street, Main Street, School Street & Sutton Street]. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins.

2) 7:10 PM - Massachusetts Electric Company dba National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. [Plan No. 25157810, dated August 21, 2020]. a) Joint Pole Location - Church St. & Leland Rd. Install pole 43-81 approx. 127 feet South East of the intersection of Church St. and Leland Rd. Present: Michael Parent, National Grid. Chairman Cannon read aloud the public hearing notice. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins, and Cannon. Mr. Parent explained that the requests before the Board are called guy stub poles, which assist in easing tension in pulling the poles in one direction. He explained that the reason these poles are required is because the solar site will be adding more conductors to the poles. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if there would be removal of poles. Mr. Parent advised that they will be removing poles, but it is under the jurisdiction of Verizon. He also stated that he would reach out to the project lead to make sure there is a plan for Verizon to remove the poles. No abutters were present. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Collins to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Collins to approve the request for a Joint Pole Location -Church St. & Leland Rd. to install pole 43-81 approx. 127 feet South East of the intersection of Church St. and Leland Rd. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins. b) Joint Pole Location - Church St. & Leland Rd. Install pole 46-84 approx. 158 ft. North East of the intersection of Church St. and Leland Rd. Present: Michael Parent, National Grid. Chairman Cannon read aloud the public hearing notice. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins, and Cannon. Mr. Parent explained that this request is for the same purpose as the previous pole, which is to remove tension. No abutters were present. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Athanas to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Collins to approve the request for a Joint Pole Location - Church St. & Leland Rd. Install pole 46-84 approx. 158 ft. North East of the intersection of Church St. and Leland Rd. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins. 3) Massachusetts Electric Company dba National Grid [Plan No. 25157810, dated August 21, 2020]. a) Solely Owned Pole Location - Church St. & Woodland St. Install SO pole 41-84. Present: Michael Parent, National Grid. Chairman Cannon read aloud the public hearing notice. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins, and Cannon. Mr. Parent explained that this request is to remove tension. No abutters were present. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the request for a Solely Owned Pole Location - Church St. & Woodland St. Install SO pole 41-84. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins. b) Solely Owned Pole Location - Church St. & Hillside Dr. Install anchor at 20 ft of P51. Present: Michael Parent, National Grid. Chairman Cannon read aloud the public hearing notice. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Collins to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Collins, and Cannon. Mr. Parent explained that this request is an anchor on the same side of the road as the pole. No abutters were present. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Athanas to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Collins to approve the request for a Solely Owned Pole Location - Church St. & Hillside Dr. Install anchor at 20 ft of P51. Present: Michael Parent, National Grid. Vote ves/Ampagoomian, Athanas, Cannon and Collins.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT: Trish Camera, 69 Glenn Drive, stated that there were 44 abutters that received certified letters from the Northbridge Conservation Commission, regarding 0 Glenn Drive. Ms. Camera submitted a letter noting the abutters concerns and wanted to make the Board aware of their concerns of the building as well, especially since it sits outside of the Conservation Commission's jurisdiction. Ms. Camera added that some of the residents are older and unable to navigate Zoom, which is why they put together the letter. Town Manager Gaudette stated that the Notice of Intent was filed and the public hearing would be a good chance to voice concerns and if the public feels the Commission acts out of their authority there is an appeal period, if approved. Town Manager Gaudette added that unfortunately the matter is outside of the jurisdiction of the Board of Selectmen, but will pay close attention to matter, and is happy to answer any questions down the road. Michael Dutra, 74 Delwyn Barnes Drive, stated that there are a group of individuals who feel that the area of land behind them should not be disturbed.

Spring Annual Town Meeting [May 4, 2021]/Vote to place articles on the warrant. Town Manager Gaudette announced that the warrant would be closing on Friday, March 5, 2021 at 12 Noon. Other Boards and Committees have the same opportunity to vote to put articles on the warrant that they intend to sponsor. A booklet of recommendations will be put together based on the warrant articles. Mr. Gaudette announced that tonight he was asking the Selectmen to approve the articles they are sponsoring but he will go through (Board of Selectmen) Prior year bills from the previous fiscal year and all the articles. **ARTICLE 1:** requires approval from Town Meeting. Town Manager Gaudette added we currently do not have any. ARTICLE 2: (Board of Selectmen) To amend and balance the current budget and make any necessary adjustments. Town Manager Gaudette stated that the snow and ice budget will need to be adjusted. ARTICLE 3: (Finance Committee) Town Manager Gaudette explained this article is for the upcoming fiscal year. ARTICLE 4: (Board of Selectmen) Sewer Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2022. ARTICLE 5: (Board of Selectmen) Water Enterprise Operation of the Department of Public Works for FY 2022. ARTICLE 6: (Board of Selectmen) approval to spend Chapter 90 funds. ARTICLE 7: (Board of Selectmen) Authorizes the Treasurer/Collector to enter into a compensating balance agreement or agreements for FY 2022. ARTICLE 8: (Board of Selectmen) Housekeeping article for the Town's revolving funds. **ARTICLE 9:** (Board of Selectmen) Pine Grove Cemetery Trust to fund operations of the Pine Grove Cemetery for FY 2022. ARTICLE 10:(Community Preservation Committee) Town Manager Gaudette explained that this article allows the CPC to spend money earned through 1% taxes, which is also matched by the State for community preservation projects in the categories of Historic Resources, Community Housing, Open Space & Recreation, and Budgeted Reserve, and other expense. ARTICLE 11: (Community Preservation Committee) Town Manager Gaudette explained that this article allows the CPC to spend money earned through 1% taxes, which is also matched by the State for the implementation of the Community Preservation Act. ARTICLE 12: (Board of Health) Immediate Response Action Plan submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for activities at the Quaker Street Landfill, which allows the town to hire a contractor to test and study those wells. ARTICLE 13: (Board of Selectmen) Sewer Enterprise capital article. ARTICLE 14: (Board of Selectmen) Town Manager Gaudette explained that this article allows for funds of which are received from the solar farm pilot agreements, to be spent on smaller Town building projects. ARTICLE 15: (Board of Selectmen) Receipts Account to be expended under the direction of the Fire Chief. ARTICLE 16: (Board of Selectmen) Town Manager Gaudette explained that the funding for this article comes from surplus funds related to Pine Grove Cemetery and will be used for cemetery maintenance projects. ARTICLE 17: (Board of Selectmen) Capital Plan projects. ARTICLE 18: (School Committee) Sums of money to be expended under the direction of the School Committee, which will be voted on by the School Committee. ARTICLE 19: (Board of Selectmen) Town Manager Gaudette explained that this is to allow the use of electronic voting clickers at Town Meeting.

Selectman Athanas asked how much Chapter 90 funds were received last year. Town Manager Gaudette stated that it was about the same last year. Selectman Athanas asked what the Community Preservation fund match is from the State. Town Manager Gaudette explained that the surcharge is 1% and the State's

match comes from fees at the Registry of Deeds and it changes every year. Selectman Collins asked if there would be summer help for Pine Grove Cemetery this year. Town Manager Gaudette explained that the summer help comes from the operating budget since they are used in other places. He added that last year, as the town moved into the pandemic and having a hiring and spending freeze, it led to the town not using summer help. However, he said that the plan moving into this summer is to rehire that help and hopefully be able to bring the correctional crew in as well. There being no further discussion, a motion/Mr. Athanas, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to place all Board of Selectmen-sponsored articles on the Spring Annual Town Meeting warrant. Vote yes/Athanas, Ampagoomian, Cannon and Collins.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: 1) Key Meetings Attended: Monday, February 8, 2021 - Conference Call with COA Director Kelly Bol and Whitin Community Center Staff regarding WRTA Transportation in the Blackstone Valley. Monday, February 8, 2021 – Attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting via Zoom. Tuesday, February 9, 2021 - Attended a MMMA Managers/Police Chiefs Virtual Meeting. Thursday, February 11, 2021 – Attended the MMMA 2021 Managers Annual Meeting (virtual). Friday, February 12, 2021 - Held a virtual Department Managers' Meeting. Monday, February 15, 2021 - Town Offices closed for Presidents Day. Monday, February 15, 2021 - Participated in a BPCC Meeting via Zoom. Wednesday, February 17, 2021 – Attended a Finance Committee Meeting via Zoom. Thursday, February 18, 2021 – Co-chaired a MMMA Managers/Police Chiefs Meeting. Friday, February 19, 2021 - Conference call with Balmer Design/Construction team to discuss security protocols at the facility. 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 be conducted in the interior of the building (framing, drywall, painting, finishing, etc.). The Town Manager continues to work with Town Counsel and the OPM on agreements for fence replacement for the abutters off Overlook Street. Four of the six property agreements have been signed and received. In addition, the Town Manager is working with the OPM and Contractor on security protocols at the new facility. 3) Lasell Field Turf Project: The project is essentially complete except for several punch-list items that won't be completed until the spring (loam and seed). The General Contractor (Green Acres) is also working on providing close-out documents for the Town. 4) Fire Station Project: The Town Manager and Town Counsel have finalized the OPM services agreement with CHA. CHA discussed the draft architect RFQ with the BPCC this past Monday, February 15, 2021 to kickoff the project. Advertising the RFQ is next on the docket and after 3 weeks of posting the BPCC will review and interview potential architects for the project. 5) FY2022 Budget & Town Meeting Warrant: The Town Manager will be presenting draft warrant articles to the Board of Selectmen this Monday, February 22, 2021 for them to vote to place their articles on the SATM Warrant. The Warrant closes on Friday, March 5, 2021. The Town Manager met with the Finance Committee this past February 17, 2021 to discuss the draft FY2022 Budget. Departments will be presenting budgets to the Finance Committee in March.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: Selectman Ampagoomian/1) asked if Jamie would be sending the plow out to widen the narrow streets. Mr. Luchini explained that he hadn't planned on it since there was clearance for the largest fire truck and added, a lot of the snow has been melting with the rain and warmer weather on the way. 2) asked what the protocols will be for the Spring Town Meeting. Town Manager Gaudette stated that masks will likely still be required by May and we will be advertising the meeting at the Middle School, which allows for it to be held anywhere in the Middle School. He will also be watching the COVID numbers to determine if anything more is needed. 3) suggested that those Veterans who passed away during the pandemic that were unable to have funeral services be recognized during the Memorial Day services, pending those services can happen. Town Manager Gaudette added that it is something to keep in mind as the date comes closer. **Selectman Collins** noted that on the Spring Town Meeting Warrant, it lists the Salvation Army as a place that the warrant is posted, but it does not exist anymore.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

Chairman Cannon announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 8, 2021.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 8:24 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Russell D. Collins, Clerk

/mjc

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

February 22, 2021

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

 II. PUBLIC HEARINGS: A. 1) 7:05 PM – Stone Hill Partners, LLC (John Boucher) – Application for Underground Storage Tank License to store 31,000 gallons of propane (38 – 500 gal. tanks and 12 – 1,000 gal. tanks) on property located at 510 Church Street, Whitinsville [Stone Hill Condominiums]/Present: John Boucher, REPM, Inc. Builders & Developers & John Holmes, Devaney Energy

-Copy of public hearing notice

-Copy of letter requesting an Underground Storage Tank License

-Copy of application for an Underground Storage Tank License

-Copy of Copy of Stone Hill Condominiums map

2) 7:10 PM - Massachusetts Electric Company dba National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. [Plan No. 25157810, dated August 21, 2020]. a) Joint Pole Location - Church St. & Leland Rd. Install pole 43-81 approx. 127 feet South East of the intersection of Church St. and Leland Rd.

-Copy of public hearing notice

-Copy of approval/comments from James Shuris, DPW Director

-Copy of memorandum to the Assessor's Office requesting an abutters list

-Copy of abutters listing

-Copy of petition for Joint or Identical Pole Locations

b) Joint Pole Location – Church St. & Leland Rd. Install pole 46-84 approx. 158 ft. North East of the intersection of Church St. and Leland Rd. Present: Michael Parent, National Grid -Copy of public hearing notice

-Copy of approval/comments from James Shuris, DPW Director

-Copy of memorandum to the Assessor's Office requesting an abutters list

-Copy of abutters listing

-Copy of petition for Joint or Identical Pole Locations

3) Massachusetts Electric Company dba National Grid [Plan No. 25157810, dated August 21, 2020]. a) Solely Owned Pole Location – Church St. & Woodland St. Install SO pole 41-84.

-Copy of public hearing notice

-Copy of approval/comments from James Shuris, DPW Director

-Copy of memorandum to the Assessor's Office requesting an abutters list

-Copy of abutters listing

-Copy of petition for Pole Locations

b) Solely Owned Pole Location – Church St. & Hillside Dr. Install anchor at 20 ft of P51. Present: Michael Parent, National Grid

-Copy of public hearing notice

-Copy of approval/comments from James Shuris, DPW Director

-Copy of memorandum to the Assessor's Office requesting an abutters list

-Copy of abutters listing

-Copy of petition for Pole Locations

III. APPOINTMENTS/By the Town Manager: B. Compost Site Monitors: 1) Thomas Chiacchia -Copy of application of Thomas Chiacchia

2) Paul Moberg (Back-up)

-Copy of application of Paul Moberg

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT

V. **DECISIONS:**

C. National Grid/ Request permission to remove and or prune twenty-two (22) Hazardous public shade trees [Quaker Street, Church Street, Main Street, School Street & Sutton Street]/Present: James Shuris, DPW Director & Jenna Peterson, National Grid

-Copy of email requesting Board of Selectmen approval

-Copy of memorandum regarding the pruning and/or trimming of hazardous public shade trees -Copy of Public Shade Tree Removal Permit

-Copy of listing hazardous trees to be removed or trimmed

D. Election Tabulators / 1) Vote to use ImageCast Precinct Optical Tabulator at the Annual Town Election on May 18, 2021, and thereafter, at all Primaries, Preliminary Elections and Elections held in the Town of Northbridge. 2) Vote to discontinue use of the Accu-Vote Optical Scanner in any and all elections held in the Town of Northbridge

-Copy of proposal letter to use the electronic voting system and discontinue use of the Accu-Vote scanner

E. Spring Annual Town Meeting [May 4, 2021]/Vote to place articles on the warrant -Copy of Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant draft

-Copy of FY2022 Capital Program

- VI. DISCUSSIONS/None
- 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