

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

March 8, 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, Melia, Ampagoomian, and Collins. Selectman Athanas was absent and it is duly noted. Also Present: Adam D. Gaudette, Town Manager.

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 as it was not yet 7:05 PM, the Board would be moving on to appointments.

APPOINTMENTS/By the Town Manager: Heather Wade, Youth Services Librarian – Present: Rebecca Sasseville, Library Director. Ms. Sasseville stated that Ms. Wade has a master's degree in Library Information Science from San Jose State University and for the last couple of years has worked in a library setting with children of all ages. Ms. Wade stated she is very happy to have this opportunity and is excited to start her new position. Selectman Melia asked what brought her back to this area. Ms. Wade responded that she grew up in Idaho but moved here 3 years ago and loves being in Massachusetts. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to affirm the Town Manager's appointment of Heather Wade as the Youth Services Librarian. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia, and Cannon.

PUBLIC HEARING: 7:05 PM – Massachusetts Electric Company dba National Grid [Plan 29788059, dated: 1/7/21] – Church and Prospect St. Install MH 18-1 and MH 18-2. Install approx. 182' 2-5" PVC from MH 18-1 Prospect St. to P15 Church St. Install approx. 169' 2-5" PVC from MH 18-1 Prospect St. to stub out. Install approx. 40' 2-5" PVC from MH 18-2 Cottage St. to stub out. Install approx. 279' 4-5" PVC from MH 18-1 to MH 18-2. Present: Albert Galvin, National Grid. Chairman Cannon read aloud the public hearing notice. A vote/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Collins to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia, and Cannon. Mr. Galvin explained that this petition is related to the Syncarpha Solar Project and in order to feed the power they are looking to extent the primary power down Prospect Street and Cottage Street and due to the distance, they will also be looking to install some manholes. He added they would be looking to use two 5-inch pipes. Mr. Galvin stated that he has spoken with the project engineer and they have exhausted all options of doing overhead wires, but due to the location it is not feasible, so underground was the best option. Mr. Melia asked why these wires will be underground as opposed to overhead. Mr. Capobianca, the designer for the project, explained that there is a retaining wall at the corner of Church Street and Prospect Street and the location of the sidewalk and the retaining wall didn't allow a pole and guy wire to be installed. There were also issues on the other end of Prospect Street. Selectman Melia asked if this would cost residents any money. Mr. Capobianca stated that any costs incurred will be charged to the developer. No abutters were present

for the meeting. Town Manager Gaudette added that Mr. Couture was not able to get on the meeting but did send correspondence to the Town Manager's Office. His question was: is the work being completed in the street or on the sidewalk or in the right of way. Mr. Capobianca stated that the work being completed will be in the street since there is a gas line conflict they need to work around. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Cannon. A motion/Mr. Collins, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve Massachusetts Electric Company dba National Grid request to install MH 18-1 and MH 18-2. Install approx. 182' 2-5" PVC from MH 18-1 Prospect St. to P15 Church St. Install approx. 169' 2-5" PVC from MH 18-1 Prospect St. to stub out. Install approx. 40' 2-5" PVC from MH 18-2 Cottage St. to stub out. Install approx. 279' 4-5" PVC from MH 18-1 to MH 18-2 pending approval of road opening permit and to start no sooner than April 1st. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia, and Cannon.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT: Mr. Daniel Germain, 1083 Marson Road, stated that his concern is excessive speed and reckless driving in his neighborhood. He stated that he has contacted the Police Department directly and they have been wonderful and very responsive, however, he was looking for a more permanent option to resolve the issues as there are a lot of children in the neighborhood along with other issues. Town Manager Gaudette suggested contacting James Shuris, Department of Public Works Director, as he is the Chairman of the Safety Committee. Mr. Gaudette explained that the Safety Committee is made up of the Chief of Police, Fire Chief, Town Planner, and others who would study the site to find out the issues and what could be done to improve the situation and then send their recommendations to the Board of Selectmen for approval.

George Marston Whitin Memorial Community Association/Request for a one-day weekday entertainment license for: 1) Cars in the Park event on Saturday, August 21, 2021 from 10 AM to 4 PM and 2) WCC Gala event on Saturday, November 13, 2021 from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM. Present: Heather Elster, Executive Director. Ms. Elster explained that the Cars in the Park event will be held outdoors and they plan to abide by any or all COVID regulations that may still be in effect. She stated that they are tentatively planning to do a virtual Gala if needed, but they are hoping to hold an in-person event. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the Community Center's request for a one-day weekday entertainment license for the following: 1) Cars in the Park event on Saturday, August 21, 2021 from 10 AM to 4 PM and 2) WCC Gala event on Saturday, November 13, 2021 from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia, and Cannon.

Resolution to adopt local Armory Unit/Present: SFC Stephen Lewis. Town Manager Gaudette advised that he was approached by Sergeant Lewis from the local Armory and spoke to him about how other communities have adopted local units and it has been an asset. Mr. Gaudette described that one way of doing that is to formulate a resolution to adopt a local Armory Unit. Sergeant Lewis was not in attendance at the meeting to discuss, so Town Manager Gaudette suggested approving the resolution today and setting up a time to meet in person at the Armory to present it to them. Selectman Ampagoomian expressed that they Town of Northbridge has always had a strong relationship with the Armory and hopes that by signing this resolution, the community can be more involved with them. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Collins to sign the prepared resolution and adopt our local Armory Unit. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia, and Cannon.

Camelot Subdivision/Vote to accept gift in the form of a monetary donation Present: R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner. Town Manager Gaudette stated that Mr. Bechtholdt was unable to attend this meeting as he had to go to another meeting. The Town Manager explained that the monetary amount is from the developer of the Camelot Subdivision in the amount of \$10,000 which represents the first of two monetary donations. He further said that the developer has agreed or offered to provide these monetary donations as set forth in the Planning Board's prior approval. The proceeds shall be utilized towards improvements to town recreational facilities. Prior to making these arrangements, the Town Planner reached

out to the Department of Public Works and the Chairman of the Playground & Recreation Commission seeking input on the designation of these funds. These funds will be used towards improvements to existing ballfields, parking areas, equipment replacement and or compliance with ADA standards. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to accept a monetary donation in the amount of \$10,000 from Outlaws Two, LLC to be expended under the general direction of the Director of Public Works after consultation with Playground & Recreation Commission for improvements to existing ballfields, parking areas, equipment rentals and or compliance with ADA standards. Vote yes/Collins, Melia, Ampagoomian and Cannon.

Pine Grove Cemetery Deed/Gloria Harrington [Lot No. 29A (single grave) Walnut Ave. South]. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the sale of Lot No. 29A (single grave) Walnut Ave. South to Gloria Harrington. Vote yes/Collins, Melia, Ampagoomian and Cannon.

Riverdale Cemetery Deed/Henry and Gaytha Baker [Lot No. 4 (two graves) Maple Square South. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the sale of Lot No. 4 (two graves) Maple Square South to Henry and Gaytha Baker. Vote yes/Collins, Melia, Ampagoomian and Cannon.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT: Key Meetings Attended: 1) Monday, February 22, 2021 – Attended the Board of Selectmen Meeting vi a Zoom. Tuesday, February 23, 2021 – Attended an MMA Fiscal Policy Committee via Zoom. Tuesday, February 23, 2021 – Attended a Lt Governor Meeting for Town Managers via Zoom. Wednesday, February 24, 2021 – Attended a Rockdale TIP update meeting with HSH and DPW Staff. Wednesday, February 24, 2021 – Attended a regional Town Managers Meeting via zoom. Friday, February 26, 2021 – Attended a regional vaccination meeting with our State delegates and are Board of Health and Emergency Management representatives. Tuesday, March 2, 2021 – Met with Fire Chief David White to discuss grant opportunities. Tuesday, March 2, 2021 – Hosted the Fire Station Architect RFQ pre-submittal briefing. Wednesday, March 3, 2021 – Attended an MMA Managers/Suffolk University Local Government Certificate Steering Committee Meeting. Wednesday, March 3, 2021 – Attended a Finance Committee Meeting. 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 GC Green Acres is also working on providing close-out documents for the Town. 4) **Fire Station Project:** The Town Manager and the OPM CHA advertised the Architect RFQ in the Central Register last Wednesday, February 24, 2021. The Town Manager, Fire Chief and CHA hosted a briefing session for potential proposers this past Tuesday, March 2, 2021 at Town Hall. Submittals are due on Thursday, March 18, 2021 and then the BPCC will conduct interviews to select a designer for the project. 5) **FY2022 Budget & Town Meeting Warrant:** The Town Manager presented a draft warrant and FY2022 Budget to the Finance Committee this past Wednesday March 3, 2021 in addition to hearing presentations from Police, Fire and DPW. The Board of Selectmen voted to place their articles on the warrant last week Monday, February 22, 2021. The Warrant closes today Friday, March 5, 2021. The Town Manager will meet again with the Finance Committee the next several weeks hearing presentations from NPS and BVT as well as holding the public meeting in accordance with our bylaws. The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 4, 2021. The Town Manager will work with staff over the next several months on safety protocols.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: Selectman Melia asked about the Uxbridge vaccination clinic that was mentioned in the Board of Health's weekly report. Town Manager Gaudette stated that the Town worked

with neighboring towns to create a regional vaccine clinic that will be staffed with local Board of Health agents, nurses, and many volunteers. He explained that the clinic is ready to go but unfortunately no vaccines have been delivered. Mr. Gaudette also advised the Board that they met with State legislators regarding concerns for the elderly having to travel to mass vaccination sites and setting up online appointments. Currently, we are waiting to hear when we will receive the vaccine. **Selectman Cannon/1)** noted some concerns from residents that the new turf on Lasell Field was not plowed the way a turf field should be plowed and asked if Adam could check into it. Town Manager Gaudette stated that he would and added that the School Facilities Director did reach out to the Owners Project Manager regarding the plowing. The facilities staff did reach out to a contractor that specializes in those specific services. **2)** requested the School Superintendent come before the Board to give an update prior to students going back to School.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA

CORRESPONDENCE

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

Chairman Cannon announced that the next meeting is scheduled for Monday, March 22, 2021.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:50 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Russell D. Collins, Clerk

/mjc

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

March 8, 2021

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None**
- II. PUBLIC HEARING: A. 7:05 PM – Massachusetts Electric Company dba National Grid [Plan 29788059, dated: 1/7/21] – Church and Prospect St. Install MH 18-1 and MH 18-2. Install approx. 182' 2-5" PVC from MH 18-1 Prospect St. to P15 Church St. Install approx. 169' 2-5" PVC from MH 18-1 Prospect St. to stub out. Install approx. 40' 2-5" PVC from MH 18-2 Cottage St. to stub out. Install approx. 279' 4-5" PVC from MH 18-1 to MH 18-2. Present: Albert Galvin, National Grid**
- Copy of public hearing notice
 - Copy of Approval from DPW Director
 - Copy of Petition for Pole Locations
 - Copy of Order for Pole Locations
 - Copy of Memorandum requesting the abutters listing
 - Copy of Abutters list
- III. APPOINTMENTS/By the Town Manager:**
- B. Heather Wade, Youth Services Librarian – Present: Rebecca Sasseville, Library Director**
- Copy of job offer letter to Heather Wade
 - Copy of Job acceptance letter
 - Copy of cover letter from Heather Wade
 - Copy of application for Heather Wade
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**
- V. DECISIONS:**
- C. George Marston Whittin Memorial Community Association/Request for a one-day weekday entertainment license for: 1) Cars in the Park event on Saturday, August 21, 2021 from 10 AM to 4 PM**
- Copy of Application for a One-Day Weekday entertainment license application
 - Copy of Revenue Enforcement and protection Attestation
 - Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
 - Copy of license routing slip
- 2) WCC Gala event on Saturday, November 13, 2021 from 6:30 PM to 10:30 PM. Present: Heather Elster, Executive Director**
- Copy of Application for a One-Day Weekday entertainment license application
 - Copy of Revenue Enforcement and protection Attestation
 - Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
 - Copy of license routing slip
- D. Resolution to adopt local Armory Unit - Present: SFC Stephen Lewis**
- Copy of resolution to adopt the local armory unit
- E. Camelot Subdivision/Vote to accept gift in the form of a monetary donation /Present: R. Gary Bechtholdt II, Town Planner**

-Copy of memo regarding the Camelot Subdivision monetary donation

F. Pine Grove Cemetery Deed/Gloria Harrington [Lot No. 29A (single grave) Walnut Ave. South]

-Copy of Pine Grove Cemetery Deed

G. Riverdale Cemetery Deed/Henry and Gaytha Baker [Lot No. 4 (two graves) Maple Square South]

-Copy of Riverdale Cemetery Deed

VI. DISCUSSIONS/None

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