

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

May 22, 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, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. Selectman Begin and Town Manager Adam D. Gaudette were not present and it is duly recorded.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

1) Nominations for Chairman. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to nominate Selectman Collins as Chairman. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

2) Chairman asks for Nominations for Vice-Chairman. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to nominate Selectman Paulhus as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. **3) Chairman asks for Nominations for Clerk.** A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to nominate Selectman Begin as Clerk. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None

The board took up the following items as it was too early to open the public hearing:

APPOINTMENTS: MBTA Advisory Board / Designee to attend meetings [Vote to appoint]. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to appoint Selectman Begin to the MBTA Advisory Board as the designee to attend meetings. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

RESIGNATIONS: Douglas Curving, Zoning Board of Appeals [Vote to accept]. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to accept the resignation of Douglas Curving, ZBA member, and send a letter of thanks for his service. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

Fireworks Event (Saturday, July 15, 2023)/Request permission to close Linwood Avenue from 5pm – 10pm. Chief Labrie noted that they are following the same plan they used for the 250th. The road closure will require some equipment from the DPW, which the DPW Director is aware of and agrees with. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to grant permission to close Linwood Avenue from 5 PM – 10 PM. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

Safety Committee Minutes (April 19, 2023)/Vote to accept the recommendations. Selectman Melia asked if the Chief of Police could explain the Northbridge Public School Vehicular Circulation item. Chief Labrie explained that Mr. Simmons, Director of Facilities, received information from the Town's Insurance company with concern regarding school staff managing traffic versus crossing. Mr. Simmons spoke to someone at the Division of Labor who came down and did a study of the intersection at NES in addition to the Linwood Ave. intersection. Most of the recommendations that were made were to install proper signage for crosswalks. Recently they met at NES to watch the traffic flow and came to the conclusion that the person directing traffic only needs to be a crossing guard. Selectman Melia asked about the elimination of boot drives. Chief Labrie responded that it is not a town bylaw but a Selectmen's policy so it would be up to the Board of Selectmen to dismiss the policy. Chief Labrie stated he plans to come before the Board of Selectmen with his concerns in the future. A motion/Mr. Melia seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to accept the April 19, 2023 Safety Committee Minutes. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

PUBLIC HEARING: 7:05 PM - Massachusetts Electric Company dba National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc./Petition for Joint Pole Location and Relocation: Douglas Road – National Grid to install 1 jointly owned pole on Douglas Road, relocate one jointly owned pole on Douglas Road. Relocate pole 26 and install new jointly owned pole 26-50 per request of the customer. [Plan No: 30744091, Dated: APRIL 3, 2023] / Present: Mike Parent, National Grid. Chairman Collins read the public hearing notice out loud. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to open the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. Mr. Parent explained that the relocation was requested on behalf of the customer as trucks leaving the facility are having issues turning. They requested that the pole be moved and in doing so it will increase the span from pole to pole on the opposite side, which requires them to add another pole. Selectman Paulhus asked about the abutters and if there had been any contact with them. Mr. Parent stated that he was not on the project itself and was not aware as to whether or not they were contacted but noted that they do send out registered mail notifying them. Chairman Collins asked if there were any abutters present. No abutters were in attendance. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to close the public hearing. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the petition for Joint Pole Location and Relocation: Douglas Road – National Grid to install 1 jointly owned pole on Douglas Road, relocate one jointly owned pole on Douglas Road. Relocate pole 26 and install new jointly owned pole 26-50 per request of the customer. [Plan No: 30744091, Dated: APRIL 3, 2023]. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

Village Congregational Church Harvest Festival [Note: Change of date only]: 1) Request to use Memorial Park on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 9 AM to 3 PM [Rain date: Sunday, October 1, 2023]; 2) Request to close Church Street from Park Street to Main Street from 8 AM to 4 PM; 3) Request for a One-Day entertainment license; and 4) Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, September 17, 2023 to Sunday, October 1, 2023. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the change of date of the Harvest festival to Saturday, September 30, 2023. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

Proposed Land/Trail Stewardship Committee [Vote to establish] / Present: David Pickart, Conservation Agent. Mr. Pickart explained that this is the next step to a process that has been in the works for several years. There are quite a few conservation lands, and the maintenance is more than the commission can handle. Their primary responsibility is to review and act on wetland permits. They are proposing to form this Committee that will have a mission to assist the Conservation Commission with the management of the Town of Northbridge conservation lands and other town-owned lands that are managed by the Conservation Commission at the request of the Board of Selectmen. The expected duties include preparing management plans for the conservation land and other lands, implement the management plans. Activities include, but are not limited to: trail construction and maintenance; habitat protection and enhancement; erosion control, invasive species control; installation of signs, trails, and boundary markers; natural history studies; clean-ups; and periodic inspections; prepare trail maps, guide books, and materials for the Northbridge Conservation Commission web site to foster public use and enjoyment of managed lands; educate the public regarding Town of Northbridge Land Use Regulations; report issues and problems to the Conservation Commission and appropriate Town officials; co-sponsor nature walks and other public education events; hold regular (at least every other month) posted public meetings; maintain meeting minutes and submit minutes to the Town Clerk and the Conservation Commission; prepare a yearly report summarizing committee activities for inclusion in the Annual Town Report; develop and maintain network of volunteers to assist with clean-ups, maintenance, and other efforts; and assist with fundraising efforts (donations to the Town's Conservation Fund). The Committee will be made up of one member of the Conservation Commission; one member of the Planning Board; one member of the Open Space and Recreation Implementation Committee (once formed); and one member of the School Committee and/or

an NHS Student Liaison. The Conservation Agent will serve as an ex-officio member and will provide the Committee with guidance and recommendations. Mr. Pickart added that he feels this Committee would be very beneficial to the town of Northbridge and added that surrounding towns have something similar to this Committee and have been very successful. Selectman Paulhus asked if they would be seeking volunteers for specific projects. Mr. Pickart stated that there are various ways to go about it like sponsoring cleanup events and notifying the public using social media. Selectman Melia asked the difference between developed and undeveloped. Mr. Pickart replied that developed land is land that has marked trails, signage, parking and undeveloped land would be like the land around the Hills of Whitinsville, which got turned over to the Commission and we do not have inventory or characterizations of the land. Selectman Ampagoomian asked if the Conservation Commission has a fund set up for donations. Mr. Pickart replied that they do. Selectman Ampagoomian asked that if this Committee is formed what will the role of the Board of Selectmen be. Mr. Pickart stated that any new plans would go before the Board of Selectmen after going through Conservation Commission. Chairman Collins asked about Benson Road and why it was not on the listing. Mr. Pickart noted that he is still looking to pursue that property and he has completed a land use overview of the 17 acres of the property, most of which is undevelopable as most of it is wetlands. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to move item G. Proposed Land/Trail Stewardship Committee from discussion to decision. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia, Paulhus, Collins. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Paulhus to establish a Land/Trail Stewardship Committee under the jurisdiction of the Conservation Commission with oversight by the Board of Selectmen. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Melia, Paulhus and Collins.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: Selectman Melia/1) praised the Police Department for their recent efforts in a drug raid in Northbridge. 2) noted that a lot of residents are talking about the lack of use of the Vail Field baseball field and someone did approach him about it. He said that he spoke with the Town Manager about this as well and felt that the Chairperson should come in to a meeting to explain what is going on. Selectmen Collins stated that he appreciates that the Board has voted him as Chairman for another year and their confidence in him as Chairman.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

The next scheduled meeting is Monday, June 12, 2023.

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

Meeting Adjourned: 7:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Begin, Clerk

/mjc

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

May 22, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN:

- 1) Town Manager asks for Nominations for Chairman**
- 2) Chairman asks for Nominations for Vice-Chairman**
- 3) Chairman asks for Nominations for Clerk**

I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None

II. PUBLIC HEARING:

A. 7:05 PM - Massachusetts Electric Company dba National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc./Petition for Joint Pole Location and Relocation: Douglas Road – National Grid to install 1 jointly owned pole on Douglas Road, relocate one jointly owned pole on Douglas Road. Relocate pole 26 and install new jointly owned pole 26-50 per request of the customer. [Plan No: 30744091, Dated: APRIL 3, 2023]/Present: Mike Parent, National Grid

- Copy of public hearing notice
- Copy of letter from National Grid requesting a pole relocation
- Copy of Petition for Joint or Identical Pole Locations
- Copy of Order for Joint or Identical Pole Locations
- Copy of map
- Copy of email from DPW Director sign off
- Copy of memo requesting abutters listing
- Copy of abutters listing

III. APPOINTMENTS:

B. MBTA Advisory Board / Designee to attend meetings [Vote to appoint]

- Copy of MBTA membership Listing update form

RESIGNATIONS:

C. Douglas Curving, Zoning Board of Appeals [Vote to accept]

- Copy of resignation letter

IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

V. DECISIONS

D. Fireworks Event (Saturday, July 15, 2023)/Request permission to close Linwood Avenue from 5pm – 10pm

- Copy of letter from the Chief of Police supporting closing Linwood Ave
- Copy of letter from the Fire Chief supporting closing Linwood Ave
- Copy of letter from the DPW Director supporting closing Linwood Ave

E. Safety Committee Minutes (April 19, 2023)/Vote to accept the recommendations

- Copy of Safety Committee Meeting Minutes from April 19, 2023

F. Village Congregational Church Harvest Festival [Note: Change of date only]: 1) Request to use Memorial Park on Saturday, September 30, 2023 from 9 AM to 3 PM [Rain date:

***Sunday, October 1, 2023*]; 2) Request to close Church Street from Park Street to Main Street from 8 AM to 4 PM; 3) Request for a One-Day entertainment license; and 4) Request to hang a banner across Church Street from Sunday, September 17, 2023 to Sunday, October 1, 2023**

- Copy of one-day Entertainment License Checklist
- Copy of Memorial Park Request Form
- Copy of Application for one-day Entertainment license
- Copy of Revenue Enforcement and Protection Attestation
- Copy of certificate of Liability Insurance
- Copy of Workers' Compensation Insurance Affidavit
- Copy of Hold Harmless Agreement
- Copy of Certificate of Exemption
- Copy of email from the Chief of Police sign off
- Copy of email from the DPW Director sign off

VI. DISCUSSIONS:

G. Proposed Land/Trail Stewardship Committee [Vote to establish] / Present: David Pickart, Conservation Agent

- Copy of email from the Conservation Agent proposing a Land/Stewardship Committee

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