



Town of Abington
OFFICE OF
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
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Minutes
Board of Selectmen
May 9, 2022
Cotter Room
6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Alex Bezanson, Chair, Mike Kolodziej, Tim Chapin, Kevin DiMarzio, Alex Hagerty, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager

The meeting opened with the **Pledge of Allegiance**

Moment of Silence: Russell A. Wheatley, a life-long Abington resident who will be greatly missed, passed on May 4, 2022 (see attached).

Re-organization of Board:

Mr. Hagerty nominated Mr. DiMarzio as Chair, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej for discussion. Mr. DiMarzio would rather step down as Chair but appreciated the vote of confidence. Mr. Chapin nominated Mr. Bezanson as Chair, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej for discussion. Vote for Mr. DiMarzio – 2 aye, 3 nay. Vote for Mr. Bezanson – 4 aye, 1 nay. Mr. Bezanson is the new Chairman. Mr. Hagerty nominated Mr. DiMarzio for Vice Chair, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej. Mr. DiMarzio nominated Mr. Kolodziej, seconded by Mr. Hagerty. Vote for Mr. DiMarzio – 2 aye, 3 nay. Vote for Mr. Kolodziej – unanimous. Mr. Kolodziej is the new Vice Chair.

Public Announcements:

- Mr. Hagerty - Abington Health Department is sponsoring a program on Wednesday, May 11th at 7:15 p.m. at the Library on Underage Drinking and Drug Use. Contact the Health Department for more information.
Center School Re-Use Discussion – gave a shout-out to Liz Shea and Scott Lambiase for putting the meeting together and gave a summary of the discussion.
- Mr. DiMarzio - On May 14th there will be a Letter Carriers Food Drive. Please put food by your mailbox.
Recognized first responders – police, fire and DPW, who all had a very rough 48 hour period over the weekend.
- Mr. Chapin – The Abington Middle School is putting on a production May 13 & 14 “We are all made of stars.” Tickets can be purchased at the door.
- Mr. Kolodziej - The Affordable Housing Trust is meeting on 5/10 at 6 p.m. Everyone is welcome to come to the meetings.

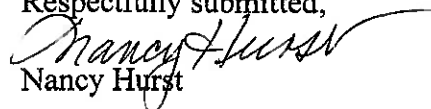
1. Update on Union Point: Kevin Donovan, our representative to the Southfield Redevelopment Authority – was appointed in 2018, then reappointed one year later for three years. He doesn't wish to be reappointed. Will need to work with the new appointee before his term expires. Gave an update. There are 178 acres in Abington, 44 designated as open space, the rest as commercial/industrial. Brookfield Development is the new developer for the base. There is a judgement against L-Star, the previous developer, and we are in first place if/when it is collectable. Abington needs to work closely with Rockland as far as developing the property. Brookfield Development will schedule a meeting with the Selectmen soon. The Board thanked Mr. Donovan for his years of service to the town.
 2. Request for appointment to Southfield Redevelopment Authority – Roger Woods. Mr. Woods was the only applicant for this appointment. The Board reviewed his credentials. Mr. Chapin made a motion to appoint Mr. Woods to the Southfield Redevelopment Authority at the expiration of Mr. Donovan's term on August 1st, seconded by Mr. Hagerty, unanimous. He will be working with Mr. Donovan until August to be brought up to date.
 3. Request for appointment to Abington Cultural Council – Eileen Walls. Motion made by Mr. Hagerty to appoint Eileen Walls, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.
 4. Presentation from Town's Financial Auditors: Craig Peacock of Powers & Sullivan, reviewed the FY21 audit report which included the Financial Statement, Schedule of Expenditures on Federal Awards and Management Letter. The Town received an unmodified opinion, the audit went very well. All the information was provided timely and accurately.
- Paul Hagerty – concerned with the delay between year end, books closing and reports coming out. Wants to see action plan by Selectmen re Management Letter. Mr. Lambiase – draft Financial Policies were submitted to Finance Committee for comments, which will be reviewed and worked on with Town Counsel. P. Hagerty – brought up the issue of cyber security and felt Wayne Norling, IT, should have more help.
5. Request for approval for Founders Day 5K Road Race on June 11th – motion to approve made by Mr. Chapin, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.
 6. Vote to approve minutes – April 25, 2022 – motion to approve made by Mr. Hagerty, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.
 7. Annual Manager Performance Review – Goals and objectives were reviewed by each of the Selectmen with the Town Manager and were all favorable. New goals and objectives will be outlined with the Board at an upcoming meeting in June.

8. Town Manager Report:

- May 26th is the one year anniversary of Bud's Emporium with host community agreement payments to the Town of \$10,000 for substance abuse and mental health service; \$5,000 to a charity of the Board of Selectmen's choosing, which will be decided at the next meeting. Three percent of the revenue will go into the General Fund.
- Open Space Committee – re open space update, discussed 60 parcels on Diane Circle and Jeremiah Drive which are under Conservation for the purpose of open space and recreation. They will go to Town Meeting as an article eventually.
- Is scheduling a training session on June 21st at 6:30 p.m. with Clifford & Kenny for all the boards and committees on the Open Meeting Law, what it means to be on a board/committee, rules of civility, how to conduct a meeting in a civil and gracious manner, as well as how to de-escalate if a meeting turns confrontational. Hopes to use the Senior Center if it is available.
- Rep. Alyson Sullivan has achieved another earmark for Abington. We're slated to receive \$25,000 to purchase and install a back-up generator for the Senior Center, which would make this a fully functioning building in cases of emergency.
- We are receiving \$201,000 in Chapter 90 funds from last year's winter storm damage.
- Our landfill consultant from Sanborn Head will attend the June 27th meeting for an update and history on the landfill in preparation for the RFP on the landfill closure.
- Meeting with departments to review fees. The Building Department fees will be on the next agenda.
- May 11th from 11:30-1 there will be an appreciation picnic for Sonia Hodge, our Treasurer/Collector, who is leaving.

9. Motion by Mr. DiMarzio to go into executive session in accordance with M.G.L. Chapter 39, §23B to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel, seconded by Mr. Hagerty, and not to reconvene. Roll call vote: Mr. Hagerty, aye; Mr. DiMarzio, aye; Mr. Chapin, aye; Mr. Bezanson, aye. Mr. Kolodziej left the meeting at this time.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Hurst

RUSSELL A. WHEATLEY

RUSS WHEATLEY WAS A LIFE-LONG RESIDENT OF ABINGTON. HE CONDUCTED HIS SURVEYING AND ENGINEERING BUSINESS IN THE TOWN FOR OVER 40 YEARS. HE PARTICIPATED IN MANY PROJECTS FOR THE TOWN OVER THE YEARS, WORKING WITH HIGHWAY SUPERINTENDENTS NORBERT FREDETT, RICHARD BURNS AND KENAN CONNELL ON THE ABINGTON CENTER AND NORTH ABINGTON CENTR IMPROVEMENTS PROJECTS, LINCOLN STREET AND HANCOCK STREET SIDEWALK PROJECTS, LINCOLN BOULEVARD LAYOUT AND GLINIEWICZ WAY LAYOUT.

HE WAS ALSO INVOLVED IN OTHER TOWN PROJECTS – THE JOHN B. REILLY TRACK AND SOCCER FIELD, THE NEW MEMORIAL BASEBALL FIELD, LIGHTS AT THE MEMORIAL FIELD, THE NISBY BANDSTAND, ABINGTON GIRLS SOFTBALL FIELDS, THE GRIFFIN'S FARM PROJECT AND THE ABINGTON SENIOR CENTER.

RUSS WAS AN ACCOMPLISHED PHOTOGRAPHER AND SERVED ON THE TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE, PROVIDING MANY OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS IN THE 300TH COMMEMORATIVE BOOK. HE WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE MT. VERNON CEMETERY COMMITTEE, AND A JUDGE FOR THE ANNUAL ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE.

RUSS FOUNDED AN ART SCHOLARSHIP WHICH IS GIVEN EVERY YEAR TO A GRADUATING HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR. HE WAS THE DEVOTED HUSBAND OF PHYLLIS (PHILBRICK) OF NASHUA, NH. HE WAS AN AUTHOR, WRITING A BOOK OF MEMOIRS ABOUT HIS EXPERIENCES GROWING UP IN ABINGTON, AND WAS AN AVID GOLFER.

RUSS WHEATLEY WAS WIDELY RECOGNIZED FOR HIS PROFESSIONALISM, HIS CALM DEMEANOR AND HIS COMMITMENT TO THE TOWN OF ABINGTON. HE WAS A TRUE GENTLEMAN AND A TRUE ABINGTONIAN.