



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

Minutes
Board of Selectmen
September 23, 2019
Cotter Room
6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Tom Connolly, Chair, Tim Chapin, Ken Coyle, Jim Connolly, Kevin DiMarzio, Rick LaFond, Town Manager

Meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Announcements: Ken Coyle – Sunday, September 29th, fall fun event for all at the Joy in Christ Lutheran Church with a pumpkin patch and all proceeds to benefit the community food packing event to be held at the High School on November 23rd. Tom Connolly – Abington Police is partnering with Lowe's in an effort to make sure that houses have house numbers on them, which is necessary for emergency responders to locate those in need. Officers will provide homeowners with coupons for free numbers from Lowe's, or you can contact Sergeant Kevin Cutter (781-878-3232 x5282) or Deputy Chief Chris Cutter (781-878-3232 x 5301). Ken Coyle - mentioned grand opening of new pickle ball courts on September 18th, and the 100th anniversary of the American Legion on September 21st.

Public Comment:

Brady Thomas, Police Union President - re Subcommittee Review of Police Department and the on-going turnover. There have been numerous officers that have left. This has left part of the department with average work experience of three years. Of the experienced officers, about three of them will be reaching retirement within a couple of years. He has only been on for 2.5 years and has Badge #6. Tom Connolly - Subcommittee will be looking into why officers are leaving, and a lot more will be reviewed. Officer Thomas – retention is a major issue.

Wanted to discuss the contract the Police Union had with the Town, which is to be taken up in Executive Session. He was told it could not be discussed. He hopes the Subcommittee when they choose a company, and make the review, will be unbiased and make the best decisions for the Town.

Public Appointments:

6:30 p.m. Update from the Dog Park/Friends of the Dog Park Committee. Sue McHugh and Lauren Sweeney - opened August 10th with hundreds of dogs and their owners. Gave brief overview. They are working on the paperwork to be an official non-profit group. Friends group has 7-member board, you have to be an Abington resident. They need to iron out what Friends will take care of and what Town will take care of. They will continue with fund raising for supplies and upgrades in the future. They have asked DPW about emergency repairs. Volunteers collect trash within the park. Stanton

Foundation has grants for maintenance that they will look into. They will work with the Senior Center and Pickle Ball Association to share the cost of surveillance cameras around the area. They are working with Town Manager and Conservation Commission on wetland issues.

After the update, Tom presented Sue and Lauren with a proclamation from the Board in recognition of their hard work in making the Dog Park a reality.

6:35 p.m. Request for extension of hours for Entertainment License and one day liquor license, 1437 Bedford Street, Keith Woods. Mr. Woods withdrew his request.

6:40 p.m. Request for commercial garage license for Andy Phi Nguyen dba South Shore Auto Repair, 15 Groveland Street. Motion to open hearing made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous. Mr. Nguyen is opening garage at 15 Groveland Street for repair work, not selling cars. There is a used car dealer there also. There was a concern with # of spaces on property. There are 43 spaces shown on plan, and Class II license lists 43 spaces. Owner is giving him 10 spaces. Motion to close hearing made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous. Motion to approve the license made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Tom Connolly. Ken Coyle had a problem approving a license with differing amounts of spaces. Kevin DiMarzio - has problem with it. Mr. Nguyen hoped to open as soon as he gets his license. The owner had told him he would move cars out for him to use the ten spaces for the commercial garage. Tim Chapin suggested he bring landlord back with him to next meeting. Motion to approve withdrawn by Tim Chapin.

Ken Coyle made motion to approve the license contingent upon receiving a new license allocation from South Shore Auto Gallery, seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous.

7:10 p.m. Request for change of location and entertainment license for 10th District Brewing Co. to 748 Brockton Avenue. Motion by Jim Connolly to open, seconded by Kevin DiMarzio, unanimous. Patrick Eddy and Dana George - closed business in April temporarily to move to Brockton Avenue and hope to open in October. They have their federal license. Entertainment license will be for indoors and out. Outside would be fenced in area between their building and autobody shop. Entrance and exit would be through main building. They are requesting Wednesday-Friday 4-9 p.m., Saturday noon-9 p.m., Sunday noon-6 pm. Town Manager explained the state approval comes after the local licensing authority. This is for change of location and entertainment license.

Motion by Ken Coyle to approve change of location to 748 Brockton Avenue, seconded by Tim Chapin, unanimous.

Ed and Laurie Jordan, 124 Green Street, abuts property. Concerned about outdoor entertainment - what type will it be? It will be live music. It would be on trial basis. Mrs. Jordan - what is it? Patrick Eddy - they have been in business for four years, previously in Abington Center. It is a small brewery, they make their own product on site, sell it on site, sell growlers you would take home. It's not a bar. Entertainment is someone playing an acoustic guitar, not a band. Ken Coyle - license is up for renewal in December. License could be temporary for entertainment until then. Motion to close hearing made by Jim Connolly, seconded by Kevin DiMarzio, unanimous.

Motion by Ken Coyle to approve change of address and the entertainment license Wednesday- Friday 4-9 pm, Saturday noon-9 pm, Sunday noon-6 pm, seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous.

7:25 p.m. Request for livery license, Mark Foudy, 1 Woodlands Way - for one car. It would usually be for business travel, South Shore, Cape.

Motion by Ken Coyle to approve, seconded by Tim Chapin, unanimous.

7:30 p.m. Update from Abington Affordable Housing Committee – Bruce Hughes, Chair of the Committee, gave brief update. They will advocate for affordable senior housing and helping first time home buyers in Abington. A mission statement was drafted. They have a meeting schedule which will be held on the 2nd Wednesday of the month, and they have a page on the Town's website. They will be assessing Town's housing needs, acquiring CPA funding to achieve some of their goals. Explained OCPC is doing a Housing Production Plan and what that consisted of.

7:35 p.m. Update on Police Department Management Review Sub-Committee. Ken Coyle and Kevin DiMarzio outlined goals for the independent third-party review bid document for audit of the Abington Police Department that was approved with funds from the ATM. Refer to attached addendum.

Next step - go out to bid for consultant company. Town Manager – provide him with what they have, then it can be formatted into an RFP. It is a professional service. It doesn't require posting in Central Register.

Motion to accept the scope made by Jim Connolly.

Debra Dupie, 1430 Bedford Street - will this be done anonymously so there won't be any repercussions for officers? Ken Coyle - they will ask that there be free access for the consultant company to records and be anonymous. Results will go to the committee.

Motion seconded by Tim Chapin, unanimous.

1. Approval of September 9, 2019 open session minutes. Motion to approve made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Kevin DiMarzio, unanimous.

2. Request for one-day liquor license for Octoberfest 13, 2019, Buzz'd Meadery LLC. Justin Gagnon, owner – would like to sell it by the glass at the Octoberfest. Town Manager – a sampling would be all he could do under this license for pouring. He could sell a sealed bottle. Ken Coyle – could he sell his product through the Legion under their license? Mead is considered wine. He could supply it to the Legion. Motion by Ken Coyle to issue the one-day liquor license, seconded by Kevin, unanimous.

3. Town Manager Search Committee. Direction is given in the Charter. Rich Smith, a member of the committee, explained a meeting has been set for October 1st in the Buckley Room at 7 pm, and they will set their course of action and move forward, has a copy of the Charter.

4. Town Manager's Report.

1. Legal Services RFQ – 5 proposals received for Town Counsel and 8 for Labor Counsel.

The Board needs to decide how to proceed.

2. Retail Marijuana – Bud's Goods and Provisions held their required Community Outreach Meeting with about 10 people in attendance.

Town Manager met with Mayor of Weymouth last week re their concerns with Bud's Goods and Provisions, and he has set up a direct meeting between the officials in Weymouth and Bud's Goods.

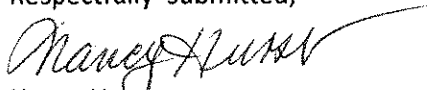
3. Surplus Land – there is one parcel the Treasurer is working on to get ready with the other parcels to be auctioned. It is a 27-acre parcel on Rockland Street that will need to be surveyed.
4. Linwood/Groveland Street – submitted information from the two Chiefs and John Stone.
5. Memorial Bridge Study – contract has been executed and will be underway shortly.
6. Island Grove Pond Vegetation Study – project voted by CPC brought up by citizen has been contracted.
7. After leaving Mayflower Health Group, going into the third year, the town has saved approximately \$723,000, with another \$800,000 in reserves over three years. This has allowed the Town to fund some goals, contracts and full-day kindergarten.

Ken Coyle – re Legal Services. Suggested putting it on next agenda, possibly form a subcommittee. Had question on Gliniewicz Way lots. Town Manager spoke with Peter Schafer, who requested several weeks to analyze it with the staff.

Motion by Tim Chapin to enter into executive session to discuss collective bargaining pertaining to the Police Union pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 as an open session may impact the town's bargaining position, and not to return to open session.

Roll call vote: Kevin DiMarzio, aye; Jim Connolly, aye; Ken Coyle, aye; Tim Chapin, aye; Tom Connolly, aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Hurst

Rev. 10/15/2019

Abington Police Management Review and Audit

The Abington Board of Selectmen is requesting an independent third party review and audit of the Abington Police Department. The Selectmen request that you provide a detailed review and analysis with a focus on the 3 main categories in hopes that this information will help The Town of Abington understand the current organizational culture and how morale is impacted by the culture.

1. Retention, Recruitment and Moral

- A. Comprehensive study of the Culture of the Abington Police Department utilizing past and present Employees feedback.
- B. Provide recommendations for recruiting, training and retaining employees.
- C. Review and evaluate the current Reserve/Intermittent/Auxiliary Officer Program for effectiveness.
- D. Review and determine if there is a benefit to the Abington Police Dept leaving civil service.

2. Management and Operations Analysis / Review

- A. Provide a review and analysis of the department's organizational structure, staffing levels, and staffing requirements by function and make recommendations for improvements.
- B. Provide a review and analysis of department policies and directives relating to career path development, recognition programs, and disciplinary practices.
- C. Review the overall Culture of the Abington Police Department.

3. Moving the Department Forward

- A. Provide a future view of the Abington Police Department and its needs.
- B. Determine the challenges facing Abington's new Police Chief and ideal qualities and attributes that town Leaders should be looking for in a Chief, relative to the current Department and Community's needs.
- C. Recommend strategies for Abington Town Officials to prepare for the Current chief's imminent retirement
- D. Recommend any other improvements within the Abington Police Dept. that can be made to enhance overall service and department moral , both now and in the future.