



Town of Abington

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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**Minutes
Board of Selectmen
June 12, 2023
Cotter Room
6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Alex Hagerty, Chair, Kevin Donovan, Kevin DiMarzio, Tim Chapin, Suzanne Djusberg (via Zoom), Scott Lambiase, Town Manager

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence: Paul Byron (attached)

Public Announcements:

- Mr. Donovan – Fire Fighters' Sunday was observed on June 11th with an excellent ceremony held at the Senior Center.
A Memorial Day ceremony was put on by Rev. Kristy Coburn and her husband Ken and Veterans' Agent Adam Gunn at Mount Vernon Cemetery.
Mr. Donovan extended a thank you to the South Shore Vo Tech Carpentry Program students who built the case for the Boston Post Cane to be put on display in the foyer.
- Mr. Chapin – congratulated the Abington High School baseball team for their victory of 3-2 in the Quarter Finals of Division 4 State Tournament. They play next in the Semi-Finals in Lowell.
- Mr. Hagerty – the Mass. Walking Tour is doing a concert on June 22nd at 6 p.m. at the Abington Middle/High School Auditorium. If you would like to participate, you can go to their Facebook page.
Island Grove Pond is being treated again tomorrow.
The Summer Reading Kick-off at the Abington Public Library is Wednesday, June 21st from 1-3:30 with activities and entertainment.
Extended congratulations to the Abington High School Graduating Class of 2023.

Public Announcements:

Police Chief DePapa introduced the following officers: newly promoted Sergeant Justin Canada, a five-year veteran of the Department; Officer Helena Rezendes, Officer Alissa Sayers and Officer Jacob Principe. Representative Alyson Sullivan-Almeida extended her congratulations and presented them with citations from the House of Representatives.

Representative Sullivan-Almeida had recognized the first responders and 911 dispatchers on Fire Fighter Sunday who had responded to the 911 call to her parents' home when her mother had

gone into cardiac arrest. Sgt. Kevin Cutter and Officer Gillian were the first to respond to the 911 call, and she recognized Sgt. Cutter, who was not able to attend on Sunday, with a citation from the House of Representatives and thanked him on behalf of her family.

The Chief gave a brief operational update. The Department will be leaving Civil Service which will give the Department greater flexibility and will be implementing a cadet program. He is anticipating it to take several more years for the Department to get fully staffed, but it will get there. There has been a 57% hike in traffic enforcement over last year. Mr. Donovan requested a meeting with the Chief, the Town Manager and himself to bring him up to date.

Action/Discussion Items:

1. Motion by Mr. DiMarzio to approve minutes of May 22, 2023, seconded by Mr. Hagerty, roll call vote: Ms. Djusberg, aye; Mr. Donovan, abstained; Mr. Hagerty, aye; Mr. DiMarzio, aye; Mr. Chapin, aye.

Public Comments:

Ken Coyle, Abington Celebrates – thanked everyone for helping and participating in the Founders' Day 311 year celebration which was a success despite the weather.

2. Joint meeting with the Board of Sewer Commissioners; appointment of Abington Sewer Commissioner to fill vacancy: David Nisby, Sr. Sewer Commission was in session when they joined the meeting. Motion by Mr. Jamieson to appoint David Nisby, Sr., to the position, seconded by Mr. Donovan, Sewer Commissioners unanimous, Selectmen roll call vote: Ms. Djusberg, aye; Mr. Donovan, aye; Mr. Hagerty, aye; Mr. DiMarzio, aye; Mr. Chapin, aye. Mr. Jamieson thanked Mr. Nisby who was a former Sewer Commissioner for coming forward. The Sewer Commission adjourned.
3. Joint meeting with the Board of Water Commissioners; appointment of Abington Water Commissioner to fill vacancy: Paul Mollica, Bill Cormier. Tom Dion and John Tassinari, Water Commissioners, opened their meeting. The position had been posted on May 18th. Mr. Mollica and Mr. Cormier each spoke on their backgrounds.

Motion by Mr. DiMarzio to appoint Mr. Cormier, seconded by Mr. Tassinari.

Motion by Mr. Dion to appoint Mr. Mollica, seconded by Mr. Donovan.

Nicole Emery, 16 Pond Street, asked if there was an ethics question with Mr. Mollica helping Mr. Dion's campaign. Mr. Dion – there was no conflict - Mr. Mollica only helped with passing out literature.

A letter was received from John Tassinari and Rockland Commissioners and was read into the minutes in favor of Mr. Cormier.

Vote: 3-4 the vote fails**Mr. Cormier:**

Mr. Tassinari – aye; Mr. Dion - no

Ms. Djusberg – no; Mr. Donovan – no; Mr. Hagerty – no; Mr. DiMarzio – aye; Mr. Chapin – aye

Vote: 5-2 the vote is approved for Mr. Mollica

Mr. Mollica:

Mr. Tassinari – no; Mr. Dion – aye

Ms. Djusberg – aye; Mr. Donovan – aye; Mr. Hagerty – aye; Mr. DiMarzio – no; Mr. Chapin – aye

The Water Commission adjourned their meeting.

4. Annual appointments to boards/commissions/committees

Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve the attached list for Abington Affordable Housing, Abington Cultural Council, Abington Summer Concerts, Conservation Commission, Council on Aging, Griffin Dairy Committee, Historical Commission, Park & Rec, and Veterans Memorial Trustees, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, roll call vote: Ms. Djusberg – aye; Mr. Donovan – aye; Mr. Hagerty – aye; Mr. DiMarzio – aye; Mr. Chapin – aye.

Kathy Creighton requested to stay on Community Preservation. Has been on it since its inception.

Nicole Emery requested to stay on Community Preservation, but her appointment was not up yet.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to appoint Steve Wakelin and Kathy Creighton to Community Preservation, seconded by Mr. Chapin, roll call vote: Ms. Djusberg – aye; Mr. Donovan – aye; Mr. Hagerty – aye; Mr. DiMarzio – aye; Mr. Chapin – aye.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to appoint William Ryan to the Strawberry Valley Golf Course Committee, Richard Nigrelli to the Zoning Board of Appeals as full voting member and Brian Benson to the Open Space Committee, seconded by Mr. Chapin, roll call vote: Ms. Djusberg – aye; Mr. Donovan – aye; Mr. Hagerty – aye; Mr. DiMarzio – aye; Mr. Chapin – aye.

5. Request for approval to host 5K Road Race and Walk on behalf of Abington COPES on Sunday, September 17, 2023. Melissa Cook, Chairman, has talked to the Police Chief and was approved. They had 250 participants last year. They need approval sent to Selectmen's office from Police, Fire and DPW. Motion to approve contingent on approvals made by Mr. DiMarzio, seconded by Mr. Donovan, roll call vote: Ms. Djusberg – aye; Mr. Donovan – aye; Mr. Hagerty – aye; Mr. DiMarzio – aye; Mr. Chapin – aye.
6. Discussion and vote on Proclamation and Citation Policies for the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Hagerty drafted the policies from other towns. After discussion for and against, there was a motion by Mr. Chapin to table this for further review and to work on policy, seconded by Mr. Donovan, roll call vote: Ms. Djusberg – aye; Mr. Donovan – aye; Mr. Hagerty – no; Mr. DiMarzio – aye; Mr. Chapin – aye. The discussion and vote are tabled.
7. Discussion and vote on Proclamation in recognition of Pride Month. Mr. Hagerty drafted this from other communities in recognition of the LGBTQ community in support and awareness of residents in Abington. Discussion took place. Ms. Djusberg agreed with proclamation. Mr. Donovan supported this and recognized it's importance to Mr. Hagerty but doesn't feel every

holiday needs a proclamation. In the future, focus more on things specific to Abington. Mr. Chapin felt it would set a precedent. Mr. DiMarzio asked about the parameters. Mr. Hagerty felt it supported people in our community.

Open for comments:

Niccole Emery, Jean Carol Road – Proclamation isn't needed. Many residents don't support Pride Month.

Lisa Brown, Nash Memorial Road – this isn't intended to do anything but welcome people in the town and include them, not change anyone's beliefs.

Paul Hagerty, Summer Street – wondered why this is a problem. The kids at the High School need the support.

Alex Hagerty – thought it was important that kids in Abington know that people in Abington support them.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve the proclamation, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, roll call vote: Ms. Djusberg – aye; Mr. Donovan – aye; Mr. Hagerty – aye; Mr. DiMarzio – no; Mr. Chapin – no. Motion passes for proclamation.

8. Discussion and vote to act on request by the Plymouth County Retirement Association Board to accept Chapter 269 of the Acts of 2022 to allow a one-time increase to Cost-of-Living Adjustment to retirees in FY 2023. Mr. Donovan and Ms. Djusberg recused themselves as retirees of the system. Mr. Lambiase – 5% is allowed by the legislature and 2/3 vote of the counties to approve. It would be an increase of \$93,000 to Abington in FY 25. The Board had questions and wanted to table the discussion and vote to June 26th.
9. Chairman/MBTA Advisory Board Representative Update – May 24, 2023, Beacon Hill Meeting with MassDOT Chief Safety Officer Patrick Lavin regarding Commuter Railroad Grade Crossings. Mr. Lambiase, Senator Keenan, Representative Sullivan, and Mr. Hagerty met with Mr. Lavin re crossings from Pine Street to Plymouth Street. There are plans with MassDOT and MBTA that will be released next month. This meeting went well. They want to cooperate with Abington re signage and safety measures and educational programs for students and the community. There was a follow-up meeting with the Chief Safety Officer and the MBTA Railroad Officer Ryan Colon at Town Hall with Fire, Police, DPW and Public Health Nurse, and plans will be drafted. A shout out was given to Public Health Nurse Lindsay Wright who is working with Project Life Saver to hopefully get into schools to help kids with suicide prevention and train safety. We will continue to keep the public informed. A shout out was also given to Senator Keenan and Representative Sullivan for their help.
10. Discussion and vote of Board of Selectmen recommendations to the Charter Review Committee. Short discussion with Board who didn't see the need for any changes. Motion by Mr. Donovan to keep things status quo, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, roll call vote: Ms. Djusberg – aye; Mr. Donovan – aye; Mr. Hagerty – aye; Mr. DiMarzio – aye; Mr. Chapin – aye.

11. Discussion and vote on MOU with Franklin Pierce University. Town Manager sent this off to Town Counsel to review for more information. This will be tabled until the next meeting.
12. Selectmen meeting schedule: July 10, no meeting in August, September 11, 25, then regular schedule of 2nd and fourth Mondays in the month. Motion to approve schedule made by Mr. Chapin, seconded by Mr. Donovan, roll call vote: Ms. Djusberg – aye; Mr. Donovan – aye; Mr. Hagerty – aye; Mr. DiMarzio – aye; Mr. Chapin – aye.

Mr. Hagerty thanked Mr. Lambiase for all his help in talking with the MBTA.

13. Vote by Mr. Donovan to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c.30A, Sec. 21 to discuss contract negotiations with non-union personnel, Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief. The Board will reconvene in open session to vote on Fire Chief and Deputy Fire Chief contracts, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, roll call vote: Ms. Djusberg – aye; Mr. Donovan – aye; Mr. Hagerty – aye; Mr. DiMarzio – aye; Mr. Chapin – aye. The Board reconvened, and the contracts were approved.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Hurst

Monument of Silence
Provided by Quealy and Son Funeral Home and
Cremation Services

Paul Byron

April 6, 1938 ~ May 24, 2023 (age 85)



Paul E. Byron, age 85, of Las Vegas, NV, formerly of Abington, MA., died peacefully on Wednesday, May 24th after a 2 years-long struggle with Lewy body dementia. Paul was the loving husband of June Byron for 60 years. and was the son of the late Reginald Byron and Nora Byron.

Paul was born and raised in Whitman MA, and graduated from Whitman High School. He received his undergraduate degree from Boston College, and upon graduation he proudly served in the United States

Marine Corps Reserves until his honorable discharge in 1966. Paul went on to obtain his Masters degree from Bridgewater State College.

Paul had a passion for sports and public education. He was a teacher and Vice Principal at Avon High School for 4 years. He taught and coached basketball beginning in 1970 at Abington High School. Paul then became the Principal of Abington High School, from 1977 until 1993.

Paul is survived by his wife June, two sons, Matthew J. Byron and Michael H. Byron , both of Henderson, NV. He is also survived by his grandson Connor Byron and wife Kristina, granddaughter Yuri Verne and two great granddaughters, Keira and Lenore Byron.

A visitation will be held at Quealy Funeral Home on Saturday June 24th from 9-11 AM. Followed by a funeral home service at 11. Interment to follow at Mt Vernon Cemetery Abington.

Donations in his name may be made to Cleveland Clinics Foundation

