

**Minutes
Select Board
Monday, May 11, 2026
Cotter Room
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Paul Bunker, Chairman, Nicole Emery, Ken Coyle, Daniel Eddy, William Cormier, Michael Maresco, Town Manager

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

Announcements:

- Mr. Bunker: Special Town Election, May 16th at the Beaver Brook Elementary School, 8a.m.-6p.m. Early voting is still available at Town Hall at the Town Clerk's Office, Tuesday-Thursday 8:30 a.m.-4:30p.m. and Friday 8:30 a.m.-12:30p.m.
- Mr. Cormier: Griffin Dairy is looking for volunteers to cut the grass, a 2-3 hour commitment per week. If interested, please contact Dick Hanna or Bill Cormier.
Acknowledged Firefighter Day on May 4th and thanked the members of the Abington Fire Department past and present for their service.
May 10th was the beginning of Police Week. President Kennedy created Police Week to honor officers that were killed in the line of duty. Wednesday, May 15th is Police Officers Memorial Day. Abington had a line of duty death back in 1942 of Chief Lynch and also acknowledged Alex Kokoros and their sacrifices for the people of Abington.
- Mr. Coyle: Abington Celebrates Founders Day Weekend, June 5, 6 and 7th. The 6th is the fireworks. There are a lot of events. Go on Facebook for all the information; there's the Fishing Derby on Saturday as well. If anyone wants to participate, help or have a table, please reach out to him or Abington Celebrates and they'll hook you up.
- Ms. Emery: The Middle Schoolers are in a drama on Thursday night and Saturday - Alice in Wonderland.
- Mr. Bunker: the Abington Youth Adaptive Sports Program's end of season celebration is this Saturday from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. over at the High School grass soccer field.
On Memorial Day, May 25th, there is a service at Mount Vernon Cemetery at 9 a.m.

Items:

1. **Vote on Minutes:** 04/07/2026 – motion by Mr. Coyle to accept due to the Rules of Necessity, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous. 04/27/2026 – motion by Ms. Emery to accept, seconded by Mr. Cormier, unanimous.
2. **Vote on modification to “Use of Outdoor Space for Food and Alcohol Service.”** Mr. Maresco gave an update on the changes. This is just for this year. After that, it would be necessary to go through the Planning Board for site plan review to keep it ongoing. Town counsel reviewed this. There was some COVID language that was removed.

The Board approves the policy, and the Town Manager approves the application, and he will reach out to the Department Heads to see if they have concerns. Everything would have to be on a case-by-case basis and would have to comply with the requirements. You can't take parking spaces away if you have a tight configuration, especially handicap parking spaces, to have outdoor seating. If you don't own the property, you would have to have a sign-off for outside seating from the property owner. The Building Commissioner would not support multiple outside grantings. If they didn't apply this year for a temporary permit, they should apply for site plan approval, then they wouldn't have to worry.

Mr. Coyle – mentioned the previous version listed no entertainment live or recorded in the outdoor area unless the applicant already had an entertainment license. The new one just says no outdoor entertainment including live or acoustical would be allowed in the outdoor area. This would just be for a temporary license. When they go through site plan approval, then they would discuss having outside entertainment and what types. There would be no entertainment through the temporary license.

Motion by Mr. Cormier to accept the modifications to “Use of Outdoor Space for Food and Alcohol Service” as written, seconded by Mr. Eddy, unanimous.

3. **Request for temporary outdoor dining at Giardino's, 497 Bedford Street, Joao Jardim, Manager.** This will be outdoor food service with alcohol in fireproof 20' x 30' tent. The Building Commissioner will have to inspect it first and they will have to apply for a tent permit. Mr. Coyle still had concerns about an establishment behind it that opens at 10 p.m. They are advertising that they have music out back there. Chief Bonney wants signs posted “No alcohol past this point.” Mr. Maresco – the onus is on the management to do their own policing outside to be sure that customers don't leave the premises with their drinks or glasses. That would put their liquor license in jeopardy. They will have to amend their insurance policy to include the space outside and they will have to supply a copy. Mr. Cormier echoed Mr. Coyle's concerns.

Resident, 17 Robert English Lane and owns 46 Lincoln Boulevard: It sounds like music is not going to be an issue. If they go for a permanent situation, there would be a hearing. The hours will be Sunday-Thursday 4 p.m.-9 p.m. and Friday-Saturday 4 p.m. - 10 p.m. They have been good neighbors.

Motion by Mr. Cormier to accept the temporary license for Giardino's, seconded by Mr. Eddy, unanimous.

4. **Request for appointment to the Commission on Disabilities** – Danielle Connolly. Motion by Ms. Emery to approve, seconded by Mr. Cormier, unanimous.
5. **Recycling Dividend Program Grant:** Mr. Maresco – the Board needs to accept the Recycling Dividend Program. By including environmental, public health, and waste reduction considerations in our purchasing decisions, along with price, performance and product availability, we can remain fiscally responsible while promoting practices that minimize waste and environmental impacts. The purpose of the document is to establish the framework for a sustainability-based purchasing program for the Town of Abington. We will look to buy environmentally friendly products and cutting down on waste and bringing harm to the environment. Right now, the Board of Health has a grant application in. Part of the requirements are that we adopt this. Motion by Mr. Coyle that the Town of Abington adopts the Recycling Dividend Program. We would have to ask how the things we are ordering are packaged. Mr. Eddy – would the DPW/Fire Station also need to adhere to this program? We don't purchase directly for that project. The purchasing is done by the GC's and subs. He will share it with the schools also. He thought we had already done something like this, but it had expired, and we had to do it again. Motion by Mr. Coyle that Abington adopts the Recycling Dividend Grant Program, seconded by Ms. Emery, unanimous.
6. **Vote to accept parcel of land (Parcel B) by the Select Board pursuant to the vote taken under Article 17 of the May 4, 2026, Annual Town Meeting, hereby accepting the foregoing deed from Abington Investments LLC to property located on the northerly side of Centre Avenue for general municipal purposes.** It is a section of Island Grove that is mostly underwater. We would be accepting that as the Select Board on behalf of the Town of Abington. This came before Town Meeting and was accepted by the citizens, and that is why it is before the Board now. The Town Manager checked on the Parcel – it is B, which is on the deed, and the rest of the pond that we own is under the Town of Abington, and this will as well. Motion by Ms. Emery to accept Parcel B pursuant to the vote taken under Article 17 on the May 4, 2026, Annual Town Meeting, hereby accepting the foregoing deed from Abington Investments LLC to property located on the northerly side of Centre Avenue for general municipal purposes, seconded by Mr. Cormier, unanimous.

7. Town Manager's Update.

With the help of the Assessors Office, they are manning the phones in the Board of Health office. He is monitoring the emails, getting stuff picked up. The two volunteers at the compost site are doing great. They turned in \$907 last week, \$400 this week. DPW has been very cooperative; John has been incredible, having his guys going out and delivering barrels. He sent a frontend loader out there Friday to be ready for Saturday to push everything back with the large amount of leaves that were there. He is working with Katie on getting the Board of Health's ok on the job description and hopefully get it on the MMA website by Wednesday.

School RFP – Town Counsel approved it, will go out in a day or two live next Wednesday, May 20th, and people can respond by June 19th. It goes to Commbuys, Central Register, Website and Enterprise. It can be combined or separate. Each of those sites have been approved for 20 one-bedroom units. Both buildings had to be pumped out a couple of times and had to have the electricity turned off because there was so much water. There is an asbestos issue, so the new people will be responsible for cleaning it out. The RFP gets into what's the best use to generate revenue, which will help us in the long term. It will be about a million dollars for each building for remediation of the asbestos, and that doesn't include replacing the roof, windows, renovations. North School doesn't impact the neighbors as much as the Center School on Thaxter Street. We took out the extra land on Thaxter Street because there's a baseball field, so the town controls the rest of the land by Center School.

He is working with the Mass Treasurer/Collector's Association to try to get a temporary person here. Sharon has really stepped up and is helping him. He is the signer on the accounts; she is the backup. She's working on getting the tax bills out and Andrew is assisting as the Chief Financial Officer as well.

They issued the trash contract to All State Waste who was the low bidder, and they will start July 1, 2026. He checked with Rockland and their references were good.

He has been assisting the volunteers at the compost site, getting the trash barrels out. Jodie Hurst and the Assessors office have been fantastic about monitoring the phones. They do a call sheet that is forwarded to Katie, so the Board of Health knows what is going on.

He is working with the Building Commissioner. Nick is going to do a census, a request for a construction survey on building permits.

The mattress company emptied the bins.

Working with KP Law on the new law regarding delivery of marijuana products. Atty. Constanzo is overseeing this for our town. We will have her come out here for a meeting with the Police Chief who has questions. They are allowed to do deliveries if we have four marijuana places if product can be delivered. He can ask Atty. Constanzo to come before the Board if the Board has any questions.

He met with the Library Union right before Town Meeting and told them he has nothing to offer if the override doesn't go through. Things are going to be tight the next couple of years.

He is setting up a meeting with Tim Cahill, the Executive Director of the South Shore Chamber of Commerce, on starting up a small Chamber of Commerce in Abington.

He had a meeting with Bethany Griles from DPH and Kristin Black on shared services. The Board of Health shares services called PN-5. They handle some of the restaurant inspections for some of the bigger restaurants. It is supposed to generate cost savings. We were in violation and they were going to kick us out. He used his negotiating skills. We are supposed to be providing services with the other towns. Our contract was never signed, which he will take care of, and he will meet with Dr. Mondesir of Brockton who runs the program regarding access to MAVEN. MAVEN is the state database which tracks communicable diseases. You have to be a nurse to get into the database, the information is all proprietary, all secretive, you can't share people's identity.

Mr. Coyle – would like to get Kevin Tocci in here to talk about cable and how people can watch the meetings. He thinks it is important for the new members to get up to date on any pending litigation, town counsel issues. Mr. Maresco – he will have both counsels in for executive session to talk about legal and labor issues that are lingering.

Motion by Ms. Emery to adjourn at 6:44 p.m., seconded by Mr. Cormier, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hurst