

**Minutes
Board of Selectmen
October 23, 2023
Cotter Room
6:30 p.m.**

Members Present: Alex Hagerty, Chair, Kevin Donovan, Kevin DiMarzio, Suzanne Djusberg, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager

Absent: Tim Chapin

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Announcements:

- Rick Shepherd invited the Board to come to celebrate the 80th anniversary of the Abington Rotary Club in Braintree on October 26th. Alex Hagerty will attend and deliver a Proclamation from the Board.
- Mr. DiMarzio read a Proclamation recognizing October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month.
- Mr. DiMarzio recognized the resignations of Ann Kent, Board of Assessors, and David Comerford, Zoning Board of Appeals, and expressed appreciation for their service to the Town.
- Peter Walters, Veterans' Advisory Council -
 - The 70th Tri Town Veterans' Day Parade will be hosted by the Town of Rockland on Saturday, November 11th at 10 a.m.
 - November 8th, 10:30 a.m. is the Annual Veterans Celebration at the Senior Center. Sarcastic Swine has offered to feed the 125 vets planned on, also Yaz's Table, Cake Connections, Veterans' Kitchen (Fall River), the students from the South Shore Voc. Tech., and Dairy Queen is providing homemade ice cream sandwiches, all feeding and supporting the veterans.
 - Shout out to Josh Cullivan, Cullivan Landscape Construction of Abington, who offered to provide the clean-up for our veterans' lot prior to Veterans' Day at no cost. He also provided a free fall clean-up for an Abington veteran or widow.
 - The Abington Veterans' Breakfast is held the first Wednesday of every month at Martin's at 10 a.m. due to the generosity of Fred and Jason Villa. They provide a free breakfast to veterans and first responders for the entire day on that first Wednesday. Last month they fed 115, and last year they fed 1,235.
 - The State Rep. from Barnstable County is trying to replicate this model all over the Cape. South Shore Sound & Lighting, Braintree, is setting up a project to record and live stream these events. They are creating a wish list on their Facebook page on Amazon if anyone would like to help.

- Mr. Donovan – The October 14th Special Town Meeting approved the zoning for Union Point and the first step for the Fire Station/DPW Project. Both projects were well past the 2/3 needed. On October 21st there was a special election for the purpose of debt exclusion for the Fire Station/DPW Project which was approved. Derek Haimaidi shepherded this project and did a great job. Mr. Donovan thanked the people of Abington and the Committee.
- Mr. Hagerty – Thursday, October 26, 11 a.m.-1 p.m. at the COA, there will be a Monster Mash party with DJ, costume party, photo booth, food, prizes. Thanked the Abington Elderly Services for all the surprises and support in making this event possible.

6:35 p.m. Request to transfer Wine & Malt Retail and common victualer license at 852 Hancock Street, from Deval Convenience, Inc., dba Abington Country Store, to AB Mart, Vandana Patel, Manager, 852 Hancock Street. Tony Riley, Galvin & Galvin, attended representing the Patels, requesting to transfer the license to AB Mart. They filed on September 14th. They will run the store as it has been run and are not going to make any substantial changes to the business or the building. They are going to bring in a new register system with the capability of scanning IDs for alcohol and tobacco sales. They don't own the property and are alcohol management trained. The hours will be Monday-Saturday 7 a.m.-10p.m., Sunday 7 a.m.-9 p.m. They were asked to be mindful of their neighbors.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to close the hearing, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous. Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve as submitted, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.

6:45 p.m. Request for a Used Articles License for Whitman Estate Furniture, 800 Brockton Avenue, Suite 2, James Machado, Manager. Motion by Mr. Donovan to open, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous. Mr. Machado had a retail store in Whitman and would like to open a retail store in Abington. He buys and sells estate furniture. He met with the police and has met with the fire captain and had no issues. He has 2,300 s.f. of space. He has warehouse space in Whitman where the furniture gets processed and then brought to the retail space.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to close, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous. Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve as presented, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.

Action/Discussion Items:

1. Minutes – motion by Mr. Donovan to approve September 25, 2023, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, 3 aye, 1 abstention (Mr. DiMarzio).
2. Vote to complete eminent domain taking of property at 199 Central Street – Mr. Hagerty read the lengthy motion. Mr. DiMarzio voted to approve the complete eminent domain taking, as read by Mr. Hagerty, seconded by Mr. Donovan, unanimous.
3. Public Health Nurse Lindsay Wright, Operational Update:

- They received a State Public Health Excellence Grant. They are part of a grant group, PN5 – Plymouth Norfolk 5 – comprised of Abington, Avon, Brockton, Stoughton and Whitman and have begun several different initiatives. One is Contrapest, a rat birth control initiative they are deploying through the towns, which lowers or stops the reproduction rate. Communities that have used this have seen a significant reduction in rodent activity.
 - They are going to install “Stop the Bleed” kits in Town Halls initially, then municipal buildings within the communities. Abington was the first community they have trained, with almost all the staff at the Town Hall and Library being trained in both Stop the Bleed and Narcan.
 - They will be sending out postcards to new parents offering support and help to the five communities.
 - The Health Department has COVID tests. They will be offering CPR training soon. Flu shots are available. Please register for CODE RED.
 - Operation Life Saver partnered with MBTA to redefine train safety and has done several events since the spring. She has gotten permission to go into the schools from K-12 and give each appropriate grade train education and has gone through the Operation Life Saver training program at the MBTA in Somerville. She gave the whole presentation to the N. E. Environmental Health Association Conference and instructed them on how to replicate it across the state. She has offered to go to day cares and be a guest reader. She has done continuing education at the Fire Department, so they are aware of best practices on how to keep themselves as safe as possible on train calls. Next month they will be at the Holbrook Regional Emergency Communication Center where first responders are dispatched, to do continuing education with the Holbrook staff. This is a pilot program, and if it goes well, it will be deployed across the state.
 - Abington CAM has been amazing showcasing public service announcements, doing the Health Department round table discussions, and story time at the Library, a Senior Center event where they discussed what to do if your car stalls, how to get out of your car. They had an event at the Library during the summer for the kids about train safety and gave them a lot of information to get the whole family involved and got a lot of great feedback.
 - Mr. Hagerty thanked Lindsay for bringing Operation Life Saver to Abington. Emergency Management has asked Lindsay to be Deputy Emergency Management Director. The Town Manager has asked her to put some plans together. She will work closely with Police, Fire and DPW. They have plans in place for different scenarios, violent incidents, active shooters and hostile event responses. They will be updating the Comprehensive Emergency Management Plan and with the chiefs will be cataloging the emergency management stores to identify needs. Encouraged everyone to sign up for CODE RED.
4. Request for appointment to the Conservation Commission – Kathy Creighton withdrew her request.

5. Review license filing fees – the Town Manager didn't recommend voting at this time, just review the fees with other towns. This may be brought up on a future agenda.
6. Town Manager Report:
 - He will be posting for positions on Board of Assessors, Conservation and Zoning Board of Appeals.
 - Design and development stage of Fire Station/DPW Building Project – a five person building committee will be formed of residents, professional architect, building and engineering expert to meet regularly to review this process and advise the Town Manager on how things are going. Fire and DPW will have their own independent inside committee that will assist the architect, the engineer, the Town Manager, and the building committee on their thoughts as it starts to develop.
 - They have started the FY25 budgets, and departments have been requested to make level service budgets and review their Capital Plan. They don't know what free cash will be yet.
 - They have chosen Weston & Sampson as vendor for the MVP 2. Program (Municipal Vulnerability Program), part of it being done with grants. It helps to identify places in the town where it is vulnerable to climate change and problems that are associated with that. They will work to identify a project for funding, and once that is done, it will make us eligible for more grants for more projects.
 - Mr. Donovan – felt the committee should have technical experience, someone with HVAC or architecture, lawyer to push back a little on design. The important thing is to have checks and balances, something we can all live with considering the limited dollars available for the project. Mr. Lambiase – there will be a kick-off meeting and will meet with the architects and engineers for introductions, but the bulk of the work will be architects and engineers. They will put a plan together probably within a month or so. It would probably be once a month or every other month that this committee would have to meet. It will depend on the technical challenges they run into on a set budget. Mr. Lambiase will be on the Building Committee. Mr. DiMarzio – requested they keep the police and their land in mind.
7. 7:35 p.m. Motion by Mr. DiMarzio to enter into Executive Session in accordance with MGL c. 330A, §21 to discuss strategy with respect to pending litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares, and not to return to open session, seconded by Mr. Djusberg. Roll call vote: Mr. Donovan, aye; Ms. Djusberg, aye; Mr. DiMarzio, aye, Mr. Hagerty, aye.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hurst