



Town of Abington

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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**Minutes
Board of Selectmen
July 10, 2023
Cotter Room
6:30 p.m.**

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

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence: Nancy Cannon and Wayne Norling (attached)

Public Announcements:

- Mr. Donovan – The Abington Fire Department is having a Badge Pinning Ceremony on July 17, 2023, at the Abington Senior Center, for Fire Chief Jack Glynn, Deputy Chief Jarrod Driscoll and Fire Captain Matthew Croall.
On August 6, 2023, at 1 p.m., there will be a Purple Heart Ceremony at the American Legion to honor current and former recipients of the Purple Heart. This year, we are honoring the late Ed Murphy who was the former Police Chief from 1963-82, and his son Jack who is also a Purple Heart recipient will be there to honor his father. Chief Murphy was the forerunner of the youth football league, and there will be a plaque put on the boulder at the Murphy Field location.
- Mr. Hagerty – thanked John Stone and the DPW and Adam Gunn, VSO, for fixing the Fitts Memorial and Abington Fence who put up the fence which was great to honor our veterans.
On Heat Mapping & Heat Watch from Liz Shea, we still need volunteers to drive for the heat mapping event (attached).

There were no Public Comments.

Public Appointments:

6:35 p.m. **Continuation, hearing to request new Class II license to add to Commercial Garage license at Excel Auto Collision, 123 Centre Avenue, Gustavo Matos, Manager.** Mr. Donovan made the motion to open the hearing, seconded by Mr. Chapin, unanimous. Mr. Matos explained he has a commercial garage, but his space is

way in the back and hoped that by selling cars it would give him more exposure. They are starting small, and if they do well, they will come back and request to expand. The hours would be Monday-Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m. There were no issues with other departments. There were no comments from the public.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to close the hearing, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve as requested, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.

6:40 p.m. **Request by Massachusetts Electric Company dba National Grid and Verizon New England, Inc. to locate poles, wires and fixtures on Plymouth Street, 330 feet north of the intersection of Plymouth Street and Jean Carol Road.** Motion by Mr. DiMarzio to open the hearing, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous. Rob Proude from Mass Electric explained they were installing fences and a new pole. There were no issues with Police or Fire. They would need to file with the Building Department. There were no comments from the public.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to close the hearing, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.

Action/Discussion Items:

1. Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve **June 12, 2023, minutes**, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous. Motion by Ms. Djusberg to approve **June 26, 2023, minutes**, seconded by Mr. Chapin, 3 ayes, 2 abstentions (Mr. Donovan, Mr. DiMarzio).
2. **Request for appointment to Veterans Memorial Trustees – Peter Walters**, 157 Green Street. Pete is a 34 year veteran of the Army and Army Reserve and wants to serve to honor the memory of those who guarded our freedom. Motion by Mr. Donovan to appoint Mr. Walters, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous. Mr. DiMarzio thanked him for his service.
3. **Request for one-time outdoor benefit event on Sunday, September 17th from 1 p.m.-5 p.m. at Lynch's Tavern, 236 North Avenue, with band and alcohol to be served outside.** Mr. Lynch – there is a flat area behind the building, and the property is fenced in on the railroad track side. They will put up caution tape or barriers. He would like to do this event to donate to a couple of charities after losing several friends over the past couple of years. Mr. Hagerty – there were concerns as to parking overflow from Fire and Building. Mr. Lynch – there is parking in the New England Art lot and street parking. The Tavern is usually pretty busy, and they don't have a problem with parking. There will be a raffle from 5-5:30 p.m. The Fire Chief wanted more information. Mr. Hagerty – departments are concerned with an event so close to the tracks. Mr. Lynch – there will be tents, tables and chairs outside, but everything will be run from inside. Mr. Donovan wants Police and Fire input before the Board makes a decision due to train safety and the location and suggested a quick meeting before the pinning ceremony on the 17th.

Motion by Mr. Chapin to approve pending Police and Fire approval, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio. Roll call vote: Mr. Chapin, aye; Mr. DiMarzio, aye; Mr. Donovan, no; Ms. Djusberg, no; Mr. Hagerty, no. Motion doesn't carry.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to post a meeting for July 17th pending Fire and Police opinion, seconded by Ms. Djusberg. Roll call vote: Mr. Donovan, aye; Ms. Djusberg, aye; Mr. Hagerty, aye; Mr. DiMarzio, no; Mr. Chapin, aye. Motion carries.

Mr. DiMarzio didn't see any issues, there is a fence there. Mr. Lynch stated the event would be well monitored.

4. **Vote to call for a Special Town Meeting to be held on Saturday, October 14, 2023, and to Open the Warrant for the STM, said Warrant to be closed on August 28, 2023.** The Town Manager expects to have a request from the developing group from SouthField/Union Point requesting zoning changes, and the Fire Department/DPW Building Committee will be seeking funding for that Project.

Mr. Donovan made the motion to call for a STM on October 14, 2023, at 9 a.m. to be held at Abington High School and open the warrant and close on August 28, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.

5. **Vote to call for a ballot election for a debt exclusion to be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023.** If STM is successful and funds are allocated, a ballot vote would be necessary. Mr. Donovan made the motion to call for a ballot election for a debt exclusion to be held on Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m., seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.
6. **Year-end Transfers.** The Town Manager reviewed the list of transfers which have been approved by the Finance Committee (attached). Motion by Mr. Donovan to approve, seconded by Mr. Chapin, unanimous.
7. **Review and Vote on updated Financial Policies.** Mr. Hagerty proposed some edits. After a brief discussion, it was decided to postpone this for a future meeting to give everyone a chance for further review.
8. **MBTA Advisory Board Representative Update – Alex Hagerty.** MBTA has had cross striping done in the envelope of the crossings as well as bollards so cars can't turn onto the tracks. They are upgrading the lighting from 8 inch incandescent bulbs to 12 inch LED warning lights and suicide help signs. The Health Department has been promoting Operation Life Saver Train Safety at Town Hall and social media and there will be more information to come and a joint communication with the MBTA and Town of Abington. Mr. Hagerty thanked the MBTA, Fire, Police, DPW and Town Manager for their

cooperation in all this work. Mr. DiMarzio wondered if the Town Manager should ask MBTA re the event along the tracks for their comments.

9. Town Manager Report

- We are looking at boiler replacement at the Library and how to pay for it and getting it done. It will be about \$80,000.
- The air conditioning in this building is not working and will be about \$150,000 to replace.
- Another unit went at the Senior Center, and we received an emergency waiver from the state to not have to go through the whole procurement process. We're trying to use funds from ARPA, some funding from Green Communities for heat pumps and some grant money. Some of the offices have portable air conditioning units.
- Bridge – should be finishing in 3-4 weeks. They are on schedule and coming in on budget. There were concerns brought to his attention by the Conservation Commission on a pipe that may or may not be in the water. Verizon has a conduit that runs under the bridge that they chose to replace, and the covering is cement asbestos type pipe. They had a third party consultant out there from Green Environmental and he found small pieces, but it appears that the main conduit is intact, and it is being supported, but they have to come up with a clean-up plan. There are booms in the water that are designed to collect anything that does fall in there. He has reached out to Verizon, and they will have their engineer take a look and see if they need to rewrap the pipe. They are taking care of it. The clean-up will be taken care of quickly and they will submit the plan to Conservation Commission and DEP tomorrow.

Motion by Mr. Donovan to adjourn at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Hurst

OBITUARIES

NANCY CANNON

Nancy Cannon served as Library Assistant from September 1987 to June 2004. She was a patron favorite, always ready with a smile and a recommendation for a great book! Nancy provided Reference and local history help to many researchers over the years, and she thoroughly enjoyed interacting with the youngest readers. Nancy is remembered fondly by her colleagues and library friends.

WAYNE NORLING

Wayne Norling passed away at age 90 surrounded by his loving family. After serving in the U.S. Navy, he was a bricklayer for the Local 4 Union and retired from the Abington Park and Recreation Department.

His greatest joys were spending quality time with his family – children, grandchildren and great grandchildren. He was an avid gardener and could always be found working in his garden and yard. He was still splitting firewood when he turned 90 last November! He loved Sunday morning drives and exploring different parts of Massachusetts with his son Wayne. He was a proud Abington resident for 64 years and was well known for his quick wit and humor.

Wayne will be missed by all, and his memories will live on forever.

Town of Abington

FY23 Year-End Transfers

#1	From	Account	Amount	
		Police - Salaries	201,600.00	
	To	Account	Amount	Reason
		Town Manager - Salaries	14,000.00	TM contract approved after budget was set
		Assessors - Salaries	500.00	Clerical contract adjustment during year
		Assessors - Expenses	3,000.00	Vision and CAI (mapping) upgrades
		IT - Expenses	1,000.00	Unanticipated cost increases
		Town Clerk - Salaries	2,000.00	Additional OT
		Elections - Salaries	5,000.00	Election police details, staffing for vote-by-mail
		Conservation - Expenses	300.00	Additional training opportunity
		Planning Board - Salaries	2,000.00	Started FT hours for Assistant Planner in June
		Zoning - Expenses	300.00	Additional cost for required advertising
		Town Offices - Salaries	4,000.00	Additional custodian hours
		North River Collaborative - Expenses	3,500.00	Program cost increases
		Fire - Salaries	150,000.00	Retro portion of new contract
		Veterans Agent - Salaries	16,000.00	Existing stipend paid during training of new assistant
#2	From	Account	Amount	
		Snow and Ice - Expenses	6,500.00	
		Police - Salaries	7,500.00	
	To	Account	Amount	Reason
		Snow and Ice - Salaries	14,000.00	Remaining snow and ice deficit
#3	From	Account	Amount	
		Police - Salaries	40,000.00	
		Liability Insurance - Expenses	180,000.00	
	To	Account	Amount	Reason
		Town Counsel - Expenses	70,000.00	Union contract negotiations, investigations
		Town Offices - Expenses	150,000.00	Higher utility costs
#4	From	Account	Amount	
		Water - Expenses	4,000.00	
	To	Account	Amount	Reason
		Water - Salaries	4,000.00	Police details
#5	From	Account	Amount	
		Civil Defense - Expenses	1,800.00	
	To	Account	Amount	Reason
		Civil Defense - Salaries	1,800.00	Emergency management stipend

Heat Mapping/ Heat Watch

The Town of Abington was invited to participate in a grant to measure how hot we get. NOAA has funded the grant and we are the second set of communities to have this opportunity.

We need volunteers to drive and some to ride along and navigate. Tentatively we will be using the Avon Town Hall as a staging area for volunteers. NOAA will provide the equipment that will be attached to your vehicle, and you will drive a predetermined route and gather the temperature data through the equipment.

There are 3 separate periods during the day in which you can volunteer.

The data gathered will be used to develop temperature and heat index maps of the 3 participating communities.

Vehicles gathering the data will be equipped with sensor equipment from NOAA.

There is a tool on the States MVP website that you can use to see how the temperature is predicted to increase and the number of hot days will increase as well if you are interested in the topic.

Please feel free to call Liz Shea at 781-982-0069 or email her at lshea@abingtonma.gov to sign up.