

TOWN OF ABINGTON
Office of
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351
(781) 982-2100
FAX (781) 982-2138

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2019
6:30 p.m. – Cotter Room

MEMBERS PRESENT: Tim Chapin, James Connolly, Ken Coyle, Kevin DiMarzio and
Rick LaFond, Town Manager

MEMBERS ABSENT: Tom Connolly

Meeting called to order at 6:30 p.m.

- Pledge of Allegiance

Public Announcements

Kevin DiMarzio – Kraft Family Blood Donor – Sponsored by Abington Police – Saturday, August 31, 2018,
8:00 am to 2:00 pm.

Jim Connolly – Abington Cable workshop for high school interns – Video story telling workshops showcasing
students work in cable television.

Ken Coyle – Jeff Coombs road race – September 15, 2019. Grand opening of three additional Pickle Ball courts
– September 18, 2019 – 5:00 p.m.

Tim Chapin – Route 18 update – detour to Pond Street during bridge replacement work. Traffic/detour updates
available on town website and at www.mass511.com. Additional free leaf pick up day for seniors – October 18,
2019. First fifty senior residents to register at Senior Center will qualify for leaf pick up. Leaves must be at
curbside by 7:00 a.m. Leaf pickup is being done by volunteers.

Public Comments – None

Action/Discussion Items:

Motion made by Jim Connolly, seconded by Kevin DiMarzio to approve the July 29, 2019 open session minutes
of the Board of Selectmen meeting.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to approve the July 29, 2019 open session minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting.

Request to sell and consume alcohol outside for a special fundraiser on Saturday, August 17, 2019 at American
Legion for outside Chicken Bake. Mr. Chapin questioned what the age group of attendees would be.

Motion made by Ken Coyle, seconded by Kevin DiMarzio to approve sale and consumption of alcohol at the
American Legion Chicken Bake on Saturday, August 17, 2019, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to approve selling and consumption of alcohol at the American Legion Chicken Bake on Saturday, August 17, 2019, from 2:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

Public Appointments

Appointment to Conservation Commission – Candidates are Karen Bowen and Richard Smith. Ms. Bowen reviewed her qualifications also stating she is aware of the needs of the community and the need for the Building Department and Conservation Commission to work together. Mr. Smith reviewed his qualifications and his concerns related to land/building usage. Mr. Coyle questioned that there is only one opening at this time and if an alternate position is possible. Mr. LaFond stated there is no alternate position for this commission but one can be appointed at the direction of the BOS. The alternate would have no vote on items. This is a seven member Commission.

Motion made by Ken Coyle, seconded by Jim Connolly to accept both nominees for consideration for appointment to Conservation Commission.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to nominate Bowen and Smith for appointment to Conservation Commission.

VOTE: 3 for Karen Bowen; 1 for Richard Smith (Jim Connolly opposed)
to appoint Karen Bowen for appointment to Conservation Commission.

Consideration of Election polling location – Several emails from poll workers and residents stated their reasons for using Emerald Hall instead of the High School, i.e., parking issues for all residents, especially handicapped residents; walking distance from parking lot to voting area; working areas for election workers inefficient. Ms. Mary Cordeiro spoke to the BOS members noting the above issues. Town Clerk Leanne Adams reviewed difference of costs between the two sites. Mr. Coyle and Mr. Chapin stated they would like to see the High School work as a voting site, but Mr. Chapin has heard from town residents regarding the issues with the use of the High School. Mr. Coyle questioned use of function room at Emerald Hall during elections and noted that State Laws do not allow alcohol consumption at a voting/polling site. Ms. Adams stated the State Laws are being changed but that this would not be an issue anyway. Ms. Adams stated use of the additional function area has happened before and the State was okay with it. Ms. Adams would like to be able to have one site for elections/polling and not have to keep changing where these events would be held.

Motion made by Kevin DiMarzio, seconded by Jim Connolly to move election location from Abington High School to Emerald Hall as the voting/polling site following all State Laws.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to move election location from Abington High School to Emerald Hall as the voting/polling site following all State Laws.

Order of Taking – North Quincy Street – Mr. LaFond reviewed easement requirements for roundabout on North Quincy Street on the Brockton line. Notices of taking have been sent to two landowners in addition to the one landowner who gifted his land to the Town. Funding for this project will be from Chapter 90 funds.

Motion made by Ken Coyle, seconded by Jim Connolly to approve taking of two easements listed in Attachment F – 395 North Quincy Street and 500 North Quincy Street.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to approve two easements listed above and in Attachment F. Documentation was signed by BOS members.

General Update/Town Managers Report

Complete Streets Grant – Reviewed grant qualifications for second phase of the complete streets grant submitted by the DPW. LaFond congratulated John Stone and his staff for initiating project. Project is to link Lincoln Blvd. to rail trail to promote pedestrian and bicycle activity for recreational and transportation purposes.

Legal Services – Request for Qualifications for Town Counsel and Labor Counsel have been sent. Prepared in two separate areas – town counsel and labor counsel in order to promote more than one firm being able to serve in both functions.

Senior Center Roof – LaFond stated that the town received earmark funding of \$85,000 obtained from the State to help offset cost of replacing the roof. This will allow the town to re-appropriate some of the previously obtained funding at town meeting. Mr. Chapin questioned if this project would be done by winter. Mr. LaFond stated he was not sure about winter but would likely be a spring project. Mr. Connolly questioned the use of solar panels. Mr. LaFond will look into use of solar panels but noted it may need separate procurement as this would be an additional project request.

Cable Access FC Regulations – New FCC regulations now allow cable operators to deduct certain in-kind costs from the current 5% Franchise Fee set by federal law. These additional costs will leave less funding for other investments in local communities important spending needs; i.e., public educational/government channels; I-Nets in municipal and school buildings; agreements to provide cable services to municipal buildings at reduced or no cost. This will have an impact on future contracting and possibly with existing contracts with cable providers.

Net Metering – LaFond stated that he had reduced energy costs by pursuing a net metering agreement that applies purchased “credits” to electric rates. This achieved \$227,975 in cost savings for FY2018. The program was capped by the state with regard to the overall application of renewable energy that could be applied But Abington was able to obtain a contract prior to the cap. Mr. LaFond stated the solar project that Abington is investing in is at the Randolph Street landfill.

Event by Lions Club for August 22, 2019 at the Senior Center from 5:00 pm to 10:00 pm – requesting a liquor license for one day. These licenses had been historically approved by the Board and the license will be renewed for this event. Mr. LaFond will prepare the license for the BOS signatures.

Mr. Coyle spoke about the opening of the Dog Park. Mr. Coyle noted it was well attended; no barking dogs; and many activities and vendors at grand opening. Mr. DiMarzio thanked Chief Majenski for question/answer meeting pertaining to emergency management. Mr. Connolly questioned the schedule of Sewer Commission meeting to discuss setting aside additional capacity for senior housing construction. Mr. LaFond will notify the Board of the meeting date.

7:15 pm – Motion made by Tim Chapin, seconded by Ken Coyle to adjourn the August 12, 2019 open session of the BOS meeting and move to executive session at this time.

VOTE: 4/0/0 Unanimous

Motion carries to adjourn the August 12, 2019 open session of the BOS meeting and move to executive session pursuant to MGL Chapter 39, Section 23B for the consideration of purchase, exchange, taking, lease or value of real property as such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the town with regard to the Senior Center/Summer Street Utility Easement RFP, and not to return to open session.