



Town of Abington

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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Minutes

Board of Selectmen

July 13, 2020

VIA REMOTE PARTICIPATION

6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Tim Chapin, Chair, Alex Bezanson, Jim Connolly, Kevin DiMarzio, Mike Kolodziej, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed for Marcia Ann Crooks and Caroline Avis Dunham (attached).

Public Announcements:

Tim Chapin welcomed new members Mike Kolodziej and Alex Bezanson. Kevin DiMarzio – thanked DPW for all their work at Island Grove getting it up and running. Tim Chapin – the Library will be starting limited browsing and borrowing hours starting Tuesday, July 14th - Tuesdays 11 a.m.-4:30 p.m. and Thursdays 11 a.m.-7:30 p.m., senior hours 10-11 a.m. both days.

Re-organization of the Board:

Town Manager took nominations for Chair. Alex Bezanson nominated Tim Chapin as Chair, seconded by Mike Kolodziej, unanimous. Jim Connolly nominated Alex Bezanson as Vice Chair, seconded by Tim Chapin, 3 ayes.

1. **Minutes:** Motion to approve June 15, 2020 made by Jim Connolly, seconded by Tim Chapin, 3 ayes, 2 abstentions (Alex, Mike).
2. **Liaison to Plymouth County Advisory Board:** Jim Connolly nominated Kevin DiMarzio, seconded by Alex Bezanson, unanimous.
3. **Appointments:** Motion by Kevin DiMarzio to appoint Andy Burbine from alternate to voting member, Zoning Board of Appeals; Ellen Delany to Affordable Housing Committee; Richard Smith from associate to voting member, Conservation Commission; seconded by Mike Kolodziej. Discussion – Alex Bezanson – wants ZBA to be more friendly toward applicants for variances to bring commercial development into Abington, and to residents. A lot of the present commercial development would not have been possible without variances. Tim Chapin agreed. There is one alternate position on the Zoning Board that is available. Vote – 4 ayes, 1 abstention (Alex).

6:40 p.m. Request of Massachusetts Electric Company (National Grid) and Verizon New England, Inc. to relocate Pole #6 on Dorsey Street approximately 20 feet southwest of its existing location. Motion by Jim Connolly to open the hearing, seconded by Kevin DiMarzio, unanimous. Tim Lyford, engineer – pole is in the middle of where a driveway is supposed to go. It is the only pole they are planning to relocate.

Motion by Alex Bezanson to close the hearing, seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous. Motion by Alex Bezanson to accept the request as presented, seconded by Mike Kolodziej, unanimous.

4. **Re-appointments:** Motion by Jim Connolly to re-appoint Steve Wakelin to the Community Preservation Committee, Thomas Petruzzelli to Veterans Memorial Trustee, Geraldine Carini to Commission on Disabilities, and Paul Joyce to Surplus School Building Committee, seconded by Alex Bezanson, unanimous.
5. **Presentation by MRI on Police Management Study.** Jim Connolly – thought this should be open to the public and motioned to table for public participation. Alex Bezanson - thought it should be a public hearing. Town Manager – there is no requirement for public hearing. Atty. Kenny – recommendations can be put on the website, Chief and Deputy Chief may have feedback, then suggested having a meeting. Jim Connolly – wants the report out there for people to read. Atty. Kenny – there is a lot of information for people to digest. Tim Chapin – doesn't want to delay it, have the presentation tonight, another meeting later. Alex Bezanson – listen to presentation, then schedule hearing. That is what is expected, but give everyone a chance to get it out there for people to read. Mike Kolodziej – there should be some public discussion down the road. Tim Chapin – there are some good suggestions in the report. There will probably be more than one meeting in the future with this on the agenda. The report will be on the website tomorrow. Jim Connolly withdrew his motion. Just wants to be sure there is an opportunity for public informational meeting where they can ask questions.

Kevin DiMarzio thanked Ken Coyle and MRI for the job they did. This is a very thorough, in-depth report.

Alan Gould, President, gave brief history of MRI. Power Point presentation was given by consultants – Sean Kelly, Dave Kurz and Neil Ouellette. Police Department has MAPAC Accreditation, very committed to the community. Suggested organization needed updating into two sections/divisions – one to oversee operations, one to oversee administration function, to better balance level of work. Transitioning of dispatch center to civilians, releasing officers from dispatch to patrol. Suggested cross training between two divisions. They were impressed with community policing. Would like to see community survey to see feedback. If department were full staffed, they would be where they should be. Re difficulty recruiting – they are better off leaving a position vacant than filling a position with the wrong person. Recommended expanded recruitment effort. With MAPAC Accreditation, the Department already uses best practices, and is inspected periodically. Suggested moving forward to national standard CALEA (Commission Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies). Re Civil Service, Town could recommend recruitment to Civil Service, or explore move from Civil Service.

Alex Bezanson – asked about regional dispatch. They are in favor, but there are challenges.

Tim Chapin – re turnover in Department, with officers who have left. Atty. Kenny. – reminded the Board there are privacy rights under the law. MRI – they were not able to talk to everyone that left in the last 2 years, so went back 2 1/2 to 3 years. In general, when they went to new agency they were asked if they obtained a raise, same, or lose money. The majority said they lost money after transferring to new position. Going back beyond three years changes the relevancy of the information obtained.

Tim thanked MRI for their presentation.

6. Town Manager Report: (attached)

We will start doing public hearings on July 27th in the Cotter Room. If necessary, we will use a larger venue. Town counsel will be scheduled for a legal update on pending litigation for the benefit of new members on August 10th with Gregg Corbo.

Motion by Alex Bezanson to adjourn at 8:25 p.m., seconded by Jim Connolly, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,



Nancy Hurst

MOMENT OF SILENCE

MARCIA ANN CROOKS – passed away on July 3rd. She taught and served as Director of Physical Education and Coordinator of Health Education (K-12) in the Abington schools for 37 years. Marcia was also Abington's Head Coach for women's basketball, field hockey (never losing a season), softball and track and field. During the 1960's-early 90's, she was an officer of multiple regional and state girls' and women's sports organizations and was a founder of the Girls' State Basketball Tournament.

After retiring, Marcia traveled through the US to compete in Senior Olympic Games and was a medalist at every meet but two. Whatever activity Marcia participated in, she always gave it her all and her legacy lives on in MA women's sports.

CAROLINE AVIS DUNHAM – passed away on July 4th. Caroline was a graduate of Abington High School, and remained in Abington for many years where she raised her family. Caroline spent many years as a volunteer at the Abington VNA. She had many interests and touched the lives of all who knew her. She will be deeply missed by all.