



Town of Abington

OFFICE OF BOARD OF SELECTMEN

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

(781) 982-2100

FAX (781) 982-2138

Minutes
Board of Selectmen

June 24, 2024

Cotter Room

6:30 p.m.

Members Present: Kevin Donovan, Chair, Susanne Djusberg, Roger Woods, Paul Bunker, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager

The meeting opened with the **Pledge of Allegiance**

Moment of Silence: A moment of silence was held for Edward J. Corcoran, long-time member of the Finance Committee; Barbara Ann Litzen, a long-time teacher of home economics at the Jr. High School; Patricia O'Lone, who was an elementary teacher for over 30 years; as well as Anna Fopiano who was a long-time friend of the elderly.

Mr. Donovan – some of the Selectmen's meetings have been kicking in and out during the meetings due to some trouble with the playback server at Abington CAM which has been replaced. We are hopeful it shouldn't be a problem now.

There is a Special Town Election on September 21st with the polls open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. to fill the unexpired term for Selectman. Papers are due by August 5th at 5 p.m., and the position is effective until the April 2025 election.

The Board presented Louise MacKenzie with the Boston Post Cane at the Senior Center luncheon on June 20th. Louise is officially the oldest resident in Town.

Roger Woods coordinated a bench dedication to Paul Byron on Saturday.

Mr. Donovan jumped to **Item #2. Sister City – Abingdon-on-Thames, United Kingdom**, and read the resolution (attached) he will be presenting when he and his wife visit there this summer and meet with the mayor, take a tour and attend a luncheon. He has been corresponding with the chief fire officer and is going to give him a copy of the history of the Abington Fire Department he wrote and exchange some of the Abington Fire and Police Department patches. He is going to meet up with Mark Dudfield who has a 1921 Abington Fire Department Seagrave he refurbished and will bring back plenty of pictures.

Public Appointments:

1. **County Commissioners – ARPA:** Commissioners Jared Valanzola and Greg Hanley attended the meeting, expressing regrets that Commissioner Wright, Treasurer O'Brien, Rep. Sullivan Almeida and Senator Keenan were not able to attend. They explained the

deadline for expenditures had been extended to September 30th for ARPA funds and presented the Board with a check for over \$749,000. Commissioner Hanley expressed his appreciation for Congressman Lynch's support.

2. **Introduce Police Co-Response Clinician:** Deputy Chief Jeff Postell introduced Julie Greenough, outlining her experience. It is their goal to re-direct individuals committing nonviolent offenses from the criminal justice system to a more appropriate community-based behavioral health service. Julie will be partnering with officers in the field to assist those we serve facing mental health crisis and trauma with an immediate resource. She will also follow up on cases and referrals in an attempt to provide those in need with treatment providers and services.

This program was made available through a comprehensive grant project submitted and completed by Sgt. Brian Feely. The grant is through the Mass. Department of Mental Health and will cover the cost of the clinical services provided by Julie as well as equipment and also provide advanced crisis intervention training for our officers. The Department is very proud of Sgt. Feely's work on this project, as well as the support of this Board, the Town Manager, the Abington Veteran's Agent, the Abington Public Health Nurse and the Abington Public School Nurse who all supported this project. The Board welcomed Julie and commended Sgt. Feely for writing the grant and organizing everything. As society changes, Mr. Donovan is happy to see programs like this.

3. **Paul Mollica, speeding on Presidential Drive:** Presidential is wider than Hancock. When he was here a year or two ago, it was originally designed for a strip down the middle, which never happened. Speed limit signs, speed bumps, radar, speed controls were discussed then. The town put in a bike lane, two stripes down the middle, and a stripe on the other side, and that worked for only a very short time. There are a lot of young families with young kids and speeding is an issue. He is requesting speed limit signs at the beginning of Presidential.

He talked to the Police Chief in Braintree where they have temporary speed bumps at a cost of \$500 and a "speed bump" sign. He is recommending speed limit signs at the beginning of Presidential and the end where Linwood is. That can't be a lot of money; and two sets of speed bumps probably one-third of the way down on Presidential and maybe 60% down further on Presidential that will slow the traffic down. In the event the town doesn't have any money, they will look to fund raise to pay the expense for that.

Mr. Woods – he knows Hancock Street speed limit is going to get lowered tonight. He's not for speed bumps and will vote against it. Thinks it's a bad precedent.

Mr. Mollica – Braintree sends out a survey to residents before they install a speed bump on a street. He sent out a survey two years ago and 80% of the residents on Presidential, McKinley and Van Buren signed it. The other 20% weren't home.

Mr. Woods – Would like to see traffic enforcement first. Mr. Donovan agreed with Mr.

Mollica as far as speed limit signs and enforcement are concerned and believes the Chief has already started that process with his staff. He would rather step up enforcement before going to speed bumps. Mr. Mollica – Enforcement has been tried and hasn't worked. The police are out there for a few weeks and then they are gone. Why not try the speed bump? If they don't work, pull them up. Ms. Djusberg was in favor of trying speed bump. Mr. Woods was not willing to put speed bumps in; disagrees with Mr. Mollica. Mr. Mollica asked the Board why they couldn't use Presidential as a case study. Mr. Donovan – deal with speed limit signs and enforcement and Board will be meeting on July 8th and let's see what the statistics say. Mr. Mollica strongly recommended the speed bumps.

Opened to the floor:

Tom Burke, 254 Presidential Lane: has lived there for 35 years. Could criteria be established for speed bumps, or are there existing criteria?

Mr. Donovan suggested the Board ask the Town Manager to look into the speed limit signs and ask the Chief of Police to step up enforcement, so we have a report for the July 8th meeting. The above motion made by Mr. Woods, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.

4. **Landfill Update with Steve Wright, Sanborn Head:** Mr. Wright gave the Board a brief history of the landfill from 2004. Test pits have been dug which showed very little impact, but the site still has to be capped. Different options have been discussed; bringing in impacted soils was one such option. This project is before the Department of Solid Waste at DEP. Mr. Donovan explained the town is looking to build new headquarters for the Fire Department and DPW and in preparing the site will have a lot of material to possibly use at the landfill. Is that something we would be able to use? Is it just Solid Waste or does Wetlands become involved? Mr. Wright – wetlands would probably just be a local issue with the Conservation Commission.

He asked DEP if there is a problem with bringing in a subset of soils that is part of a larger project in particular of a contractor taking over the job and then immediately turning it and capping just short term because the town has a need. Could we do it where the material that is at the generating site might need to get over to the landfill pretty quickly, possibly in February? Solid Waste said we could do that. It is an inactive landfill right now. Adding soil will turn it active and that will trigger DEP to put expectation boundaries on the town. We should be getting a Comprehensive Site Assessment next month. He is hoping to get a confirmation that we can leave the wetland field material in place. Mr. Donovan suggested sitting down with Mr. Wright and the Town Manager to discuss it further.

5. **Auditors – Financial Reports:** Craig Peacock, Powers & Sullivan – The Schedule of Expenditures of Federal Awards and Annual Financials received unmodified opinions which are the best you can get, clean reports. The Management Letter from 22-23 had seven comments that were carried forward. Two were completely resolved, one was partially resolved, the OPEB funds to Plymouth County. The four comments that are

unresolved deal with some reconciliations and timing of cash and reconciliations. From the Town Manager's office to the Accountant's office, to the Treasurer/Collector's office, he feels everyone is working well together. The last couple of years neither office had enough staff. There have been some mitigating issues and they have caused the day to day operations to be pushed back a little bit. Once they worked together, they were able to get through it. Speaking with Accounting and Treasurer/Collector and what has been happening in 2024, he would expect these issues to be gone for this next audit.

Mr. Donovan was concerned that the books weren't closed until March '24 and they should have been closed in September '23. He would like to see at the September 9th meeting a report on reconciliations for cash and the health trust to get a handle on how we are doing. There seemed to be a backlog before. They dealt with some outside help to try to coordinate and move forward. He wants this on the agenda every meeting – where do we stand on reconciliations, what months have been reconciled, the health trust moving forward because he doesn't want to lose sight of this.

Mr. Donovan asked about Financials – Enterprise Sewer deficit of \$30,777 and Cable Access deficit of \$65,585. They include depreciation on capital assets, also net pension liability.

Motion by Mr. Woods to accept the financials, auditor's report and management letter, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.

6. **10 Railroad Street Update:** Jason Harris, Building Commissioner, provided a timeline on enforcement efforts. They have sent out about \$15,000 of citations. They are in basic minimum compliance now. There is a language barrier and a time barrier there whenever he reaches out. The property is owned by a foreign entity out of Beijing, China. There has been a liaison who has been taking care of the building, but he has decided to retire. There is an open file with DEP currently. The building is structurally sound and up to code.

Fire Chief Jack Glynn – their biggest concern is winter because fire suppression is tied into the boiler. They start in July reminding them it has to be maintained. He and Captain Cotti toured the building last week and nothing has changed structurally. The sprinkler system is up and operational. The smoke detectors and notification systems are operational. They are meeting every requirement they need.

Action/Discussion Items:

1. **Minutes:** June 10, 2024 – motion by Mr. Woods to approve, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.
3. **Hancock Street Speed Limit:** There was discussion at the 2023 Annual Town Meeting and the Town voted favorably on Article 15 to accept the provisions of Chapter 90 Section 17C which would allow the Board of Selectmen to reduce the speed limit to 25 mph. Before we hear the concerns of the residents, reading the statute, there is no

leeway. It would have to be 25 mph. Motion by Mr. Woods to lower the speed limit to 25 mph on all of Hancock Street, to direct the DPW Director to put up signs accordingly, and to notify the Police Chief, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous. A roundabout is going to be put in at the Chestnut Street end.

4. **Appointments:** Motion by Mr. Woods to approve the following appointments – John Norton, Associate, Conservation Commission; Leanne M. Adams, Council on Aging; Alex Hagerty, Historical Commission, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.
5. **Renewal of Commercial Garage Licenses:** Motion by Mr. Woods to approve the attached list, pending satisfactory inspections, completed paperwork and up-to-date tax payments, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.
6. **Summer Meeting Schedule:** The next meeting is July 8th at 10 a.m., then September 9th, followed by the regular schedule of second and fourth Mondays unless there is a holiday.
7. **Vote on Purple Heart Street Naming Policy:** Mr. Donovan and the Town Manager discussed this with the Veterans' Agent. Motion by Mr. Woods to accept the policy to include Purple Heart recipients on the street naming list, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous.

Motion by Ms. Djusberg to adjourn at 7:35 p.m., seconded by Mr. Woods, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Hurst

**TOWN OF ABINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
2024**

***A Resolution recognizing Abingdon-on-Thames, County of Oxfordshire,
United Kingdom as a Sister City to the Town of Abington,
County of Plymouth, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, United States of America***

WHEREAS: The Town of Abington, County of Plymouth, Massachusetts, United States of America, was incorporated by an Act of the General Court of the Province of Massachusetts Bay Colony on June 10, 1712; and

WHEREAS: The Town of Abington, County of Plymouth, Massachusetts, United States of America was named after Countess Anne Venables-Bertie, wife of the 2nd Earl of Abingdon, as Lady Anne was a Lady of the Bedchamber to Her Majesty Anne, By the Grace of God, Queen of Great Britain, France and Ireland, Defender of the Faith; and

WHEREAS: The decree approved by the Royal Governor Joseph Dudley, in gratitude for Her Ladyship's intercession in receiving Letters Patent from the Sovereign appointing him the Royal Governor, ordered that the Town be incorporated and named "Abingdon"; however, it was transcribed as "Abington".

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Honorable Board of Selectmen of the Town of Abington, County of Plymouth, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, United States of America, that given the shared history of our communities, it is hereby recognized that Abingdon-on-Thames, County of Oxfordshire, United Kingdom is to be considered a Sister City and that this Resolution is to be transmitted officially by Kevin R. Donovan, as Chairman of the Abington Board of Selectmen, to the Mayor and Council of Abingdon-on-Thames, County of Oxfordshire, United Kingdom at a fitting time and place; and that the best wishes and good will of all the Inhabitants of said Abington, County of Plymouth, Commonwealth of Massachusetts, United States of America are hereby extended to the Inhabitants of Abingdon-on-Thames, County of Oxfordshire, United Kingdom.

Given this first day of April, in the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty-Four, the Two Hundred Forty-Eighth Year of Independence of the United States of America, the Three Hundred Thirty-Ninth Year of Incorporation of the County of Plymouth, and the Three Hundred Twelfth Year of Incorporation of the Town of Abington.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Town of Abington, Massachusetts, USA

Kevin R. Donovan, Chairman

Timothy M. Chapin

Suzanne L. Djusberg

Kevin M. DiMarzio

**Abington Sanitary Landfill
Assessment and Closure Update
June 24, 2024**

1. MassDEP Administrative Consent Order (ACO)

- i. ACO negotiations between MassDEP and the Town began in 2005; ACO finalized on February 26, 2010.
- ii. The ACO provides a timeline and requirements for completing the assessment and closure of the landfill.

2. MassDEP Landfill Assessment and Closure Process

- A. The DEP Solid Waste Regulations require that landfills – prior to closure – complete a landfill assessment. The assessment consists of the following three phases:
 - Initial Site Assessment (ISA) – Presents site background and recommendations for the Comprehensive Site Assessment program;
 - Comprehensive Site Assessment (CSA) – Presents results of environmental monitoring program and recommendations for evaluating corrective actions; and
 - Corrective Action Alternatives Analysis (CAAA) – Presents a comparison of various corrective action alternatives and identifies the preferred alternative for implementation.
- B. Each phase of the assessment process requires MassDEP approval before proceeding with the next phase. MassDEP is currently finalizing its review of the CSA Report and they have advised us that the permit approval should be issued in July of this year. Approval will allow us to begin the CAAA evaluation (see Item 5)
- C. Following approval of the CAAA Report, the Corrective Action Design (CAD) for the preferred closure alternative must be submitted to MassDEP for review and approval. Once the CAD is approved, construction can begin (assuming all other required permits have been obtained).

3. Landfill Limits (see attached site plan)

4. Conceptual Closure Scenarios Evaluated in 2006/2007 – Contaminated Soils Used to Close Inactive Unlined Landfills

- A. MassDEP has guidance policy that allows for use of different “Grading and Shaping Materials”, including contaminated soils as defined by MassDEP, to assist in reaching required final grades for landfill capping.
- B. ACOs are the mechanisms used by MassDEP to incorporate the requirements associated with a “Grading and Shaping” landfill closure project.
- C. Public comment/public information session is part of the process.
- D. In 2006/2007 Abington explored the concept of importing contaminated soils to assist in the capping of the landfill:
 - Joint BOS/BOH Public Meetings Held: 9/25/2006; 12/11/2006; 1/8/2007.

Abington Sanitary Landfill
Assessment and Closure Update
June 24, 2024

- Nine closure options were evaluated, grouped by differing post-closure uses and differing amounts of contaminated soils needed for closure.
- The 1/8/2007 Public Meeting adopted the option for importing 150,000 cy of contaminated soils in the back portion of the site with composting/recycling operations in the front (no contaminated soils in the front). **See attached concept fill plan.**

5. Next Steps – CAAA Phase

- A. Once the CSA is approved by MassDEP, the next step is to prepare a CAAA Scope of Work that describes the alternatives we will look at in the CAAA Report. The CAAA will be submitted to MassDEP for review and comment before work would begin on the CAAA. Per the options presented in the CSA and more recent discussions with MassDEP, the CAAA Report will evaluate the following alternatives:
- i. No Action Alternative (required by regulation to evaluate)
 - ii. Standard landfill cap per current regulations, where the front portion of the landfill would also have a standard cap except the wearing surface would be pavement and/or dense grade to support continued composting activities (the composting area would represent a post-closure use).
 - iii. Standard cap for the back portion of the landfill with alternative cover system (less intensive than standard cap) in the front of the site where composting activities are performed.
 - iv. Import contaminated soils in the back portion of site and install standard cap over the imported soils (front portion of site would consist of the cap alternatives described in ii and iii above);
 - v. All alternatives will advocate that the area where the landfill has encroached into the abutting wetlands be left in-place (and not capped). MassDEP may require that one of the alternatives look at the implications of removing the fill in these encroachment areas and restoring the wetlands where material is removed.

6. Soil Disposal Related to Fire Department/DPW Project

7. Questions

Landfill Site Plan



OPTION

3

SOIL QUALITY

150,000 CY

DELIVERY TIME

9 TO 18 MONTHS

TRAILER LOADS

10,000

ELEVATION CHANGE

FRONT: 5'

BACK: 50'

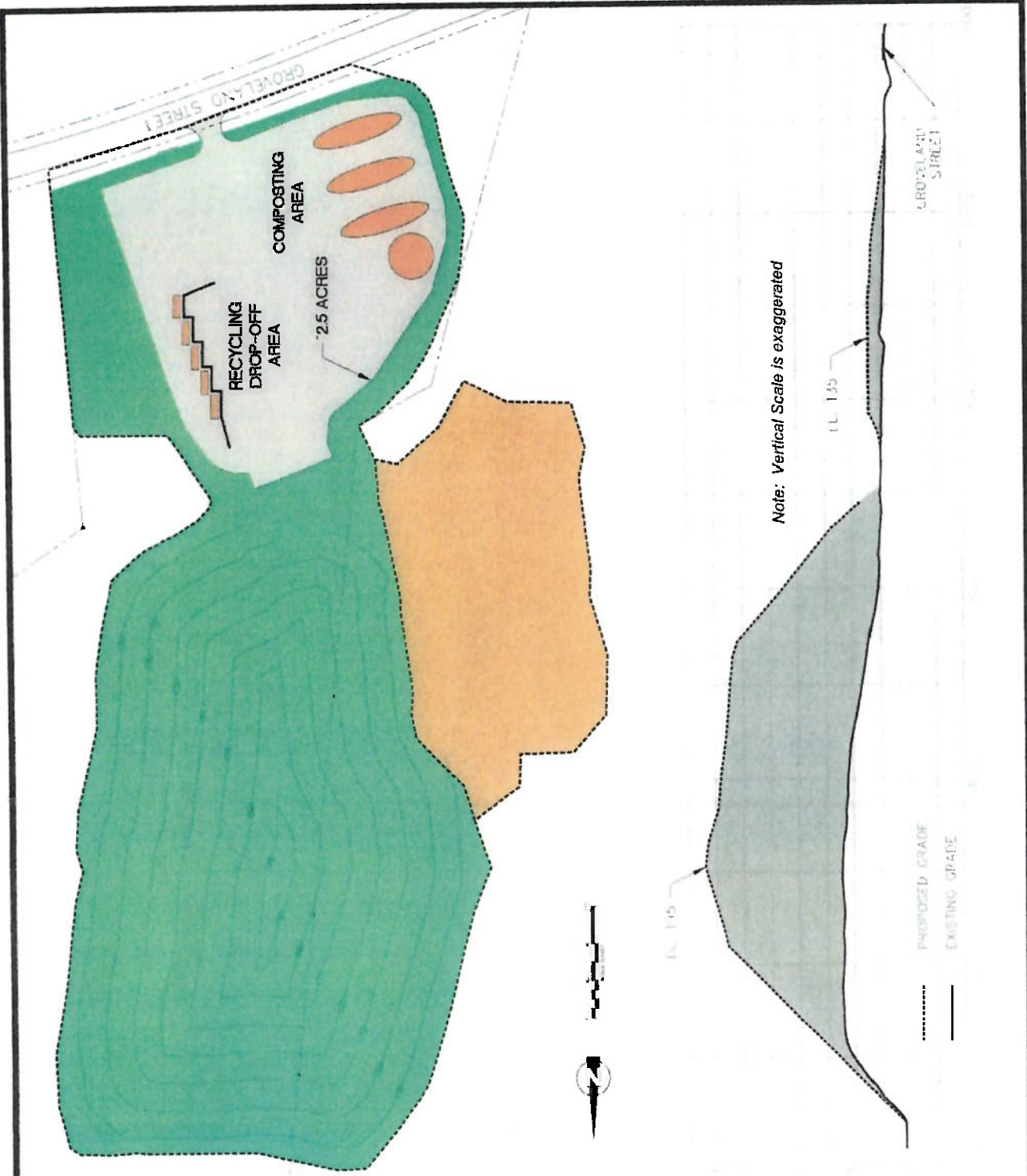
COST:

TOTAL
\$4.1 M

POTENTIAL REVENUE
(\$15 M)

NET COST:

\$2.6 M



*Presented at Town Meetings in
2006 and 2007*

LIST OF APPOINTMENTS DUE TO EXPIRE 6/30/2024

ABINGTON AFFORDABLE HOUSING

2 vacancies

AMES NOWELL ADVISORY COMMITTEE

1 vacancy

CABLE ADVISORY

2 vacancies

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION

1 vacancy

CONSERVATION COMMISSION

John Norton – Associate Member

COUNCIL ON AGING

Leanne M. Adams

Plus 1 vacancy

HISTORICAL COMMISSION

Alex Hagerty

OPIOID SETTLEMENT FUND ALLOCATION COMMITTEE

1 vacancy

VETERANS MEMORIAL TRUSTEES

1 vacancy

ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS

1 vacancy for Alternate

**2024
COMMERCIAL GARAGE RENEWALS**

7/1/24-6/30/25

COMM. GARAGE	Owner	Address	Type	# for Repair	On lot after hrs.	Restrictions on Licenses
810 Auto Motors LLC	Claudio Netto & Nathalia Alves,	810 Brockton Ave.	C-II/CG			15 for sale per 6/29/99 plan
A/J Equipment Repair, Inc.	Andrew Winiwicz mailing address: Ricky Bernasconi	496 Centre Avenue 490 Centre Avenue	C-I/CG	5-10	5	5 sale
Abington Auto Mall LLC	Carlos Costa	761 Bedford St.	C-II/CG	25	4	
Abington Auto Repair Corp.	Jackson Botelho	347 Summer Street	CG	15		15 repair, 10 customer, 3 employee, total 33
Abington Auto Works	Gary Trenholm	225 Brockton Avenue	CG			4 repair, 2 customer, 3 employee
Abington Automatic Trans.		1 Oak St.	CG	8-12	40	
Abington Stop N Gas	Aziz Habr	164 North Avenue	CG			3 repair, 11 customer, 6 employee
Abington Sunoco	James Stone	907 Bedford St.	C-II/CG	20	25	5 empl/cust., 4 sale, 20 repair
AM Auto Collision Ctr & Sales	Mathheus Moreira	933 Brockton Ave.	C-II/CG			9 repair, 3 customer, 2 empl., 18 sale, total 38 on property, no parking on Robbins Ave.
Auto Shine Auto Body Abington	Mark Bendlock	310 Bedford Street	C-II/CG			15 sale, total 45, including inside & out, nothing for sale out front
Auto Towne Rentals, Inc.	Warren L. Rich	402 Brockton Ave.	C-II/CG	6 inside		30 sale, 4 empl., 6 repair inside - total 40
Auto Towne Truck Sales	Robert W. Hayes	500 Brockton Ave.	C-II/CG	3		3 repair, 3 customer, 2 employee, 122 sale
Borderland Services	Michel Khoury	171 N. Quincy St.	C-II/CG	5		19 sale, 4 cust.
Collision Craftsmen	John Pyrcz	800 E Adams Street	C-II/CG	20	25	5 sale
Columbia Auto Collision, Inc.	Cleydson Neris Carvalho	761 Bedford St.	CG			15 parking spaces outside
D & S Auto Works	Dana Snowdale	730 Adams Street	C-II/CG	9	20-26	14 sale, 6 cust/empl.
Fox Auto Group	Rogério Kreidtlow	123 Centre Avenue	C-II/CG C-II/CG	15		33 cars total - 15 rep., 15 customer, 3 empl.
Extreme Auto & Marine Repair	Daniel Nagle	1420 Bedford St.	CG			6 rep, 3 cust., 3 empl. For total of 12 vehicles 5 for sale
Midway Auto LLC	Michael Deveney	415 Brockton Avenue	C-II/CG	25	5	limit of 250 cars
National Auto Center	Helder Pena	271 Washington Street	CG	4	2	6 repair, 2 cust., 2 empl. Spaces
Neto Auto Repair	Apolonio Neto/ Mathheus Salerno	800 Adams Street, Unit C				4 repair, 4 cust., 2 empl., total 10
Nick's Pit Stop	Keith Lascuola	1030 Bedford St.	C-11/CG			16 for sale
N. J. Motors LLC	Yaacoub N. Obeid	231 N. Quincy Street	CG	4	6	5 repair, 4 employee, 60 spaces on property
Platinum Auto Care	Shaun MacPherson	485 Centre Ave.	CG			10 cars for repair, 5 empl. Spaces, 5 customer
Precision Auto Care Inc.	Daniel Silveira	3 Highland Road	CG			

2024

7/1/24-6/30/25

Rahn's Motorcycle Engineering	Rahn R. Peirine	800 A Adams Street	C-I//CG	10	none	6 motorcycles
Rte. 18 Autobody, Inc.	Edward J. Herman	325 Washington St.	C-II/CG	10	10	15 sale
Shah Auto Sales, Inc.	Taimur Shah	120 Plymouth St.	C-1/CG	5		29 sale, 2 cust., 5 rep., 1 resident, total 37
South Shore Cycle Parts	Henry Sirignano	836 Bedford Street	CG	1	none	all kept inside after hours
Simon's Auto Service Ctr.	Simon Teles, Jr.	740 Brockton Avenue	CG			
Sullivan Tire	Bob Demarco	1215 Bedford St.	CG			30 spaces total
TC Auto Repair & Sales, Inc.	Antoine Chahine	190 North Avenue	C-II//CG			12 sale, 2 empl, 5 inside, 5 outside for repair - total 24
Tom's Auto Repair	Thomas R. Gannon	981 Hancock St.	CG	4-6	4-6	
Universal Auto Body, Inc.	T & C Denney	288 North Avenue	C-II/CG	10	10	24 sale
Whitman Bodyworks, Inc.	John Studer	1420 Bedford St.	CG	10	all inside	limit of 15 inside, 10 outside

SUMMARY: Since 2016, the Town of Abington has had a policy in place to honor our Killed in Action (KIA) service members who gave the ultimate sacrifice by dedicating new streets after them. Since we have now gone through our list, the Veterans Services Department, Veterans Advisory Council, and our Veteran Organizations have come together with a way to continue honoring our deserving deceased Abington Veterans who received the Purple Heart medal.

BACKGROUND: Although the Purple Heart is the oldest active military award in the United States and has gone through many changes since it was established by George Washington in 1782, but there is no complete list of recipients. Pete and Janice Walters have spent months diving into our Town's Veteran records to verify our current Purple Heart recipient list and have discovered numerous more that we haven't been made aware of until now. We reached out to Perma-Line, who Abington DPW uses for our street signs and asked them to design a street sign (please see attached example). We want it to stand out and proudly honor our brave service members since we became a Purple Heart Town on August 7th, 2022. Since I'm unaware of another Town who has done this, we've held numerous meetings to discuss the best plan forward and make sure this process is done properly and fairly for not only our Purple Heart recipients we're honoring, but to the families this will mean so much to for many years to come.

Below are a few of things we believe to be important to highlight in not only the process, but the policy that should be implemented so there is no deviation or confusion in the future. We don't have anything formal in writing (in my research and knowledge) in place for our KIA, other than a handwritten list of names that the Town Planner had in her office, that we have now exhausted.

KIA Service Members: They sacrificed all and deserve our respect. If we have another Abington KIA, they move to the top of our list and will have the next street sign dedicated to them.

ELIGIBILITY: Must be a deceased former Abington resident who received the Purple Heart and either joined from Abington (listed on their separation document: DD214), was discharged to Abington (on their military separation document), or moved to Abington within three years of discharge and lived there until their death. I've reached out to other Veterans' Agents in Massachusetts, and these are the general guidelines our Towns use for their Veteran memorials and I'm unaware of any deviation, so we must continue to uphold these standards.

- **ORDER:** To ensure there is no unfair influence in the selection of names, we reached out to a non-profit, Ashes to Honor (see attached), who is currently researching and retrieving the records of our deceased Purple Heart recipients through the National Archives and war records and will place them in my hands. At the recommendation of our Veteran Organization Commanders, we will rank them in the following categories: Where and what war/battle they served in, what other awards did they receive, what their role was, what was the extent of their injury, and how long did they serve. Similarly to the selection board process of how our military branches decide upon the selection of deserving service members for awards, I will lead the Abington Advisory Council to conduct a review board of their records with graded ranking sheets to recommend who is honored and in what order. I would then present that list to the three Veteran Post Commanders for input, and the Veterans Services Department would hold the list for the Planning Board/Town Planner. This will be a living and breathing list that will continue to be updated. If a developer decides they would like to honor someone on the list in a different order, they will present and propose that to Board of Selectman. In the end, as long as a deserving Veteran is honored, we are doing great things, but it must be done fairly.

Once this is in place, we have a form that future Veterans and/or family members can fill out and submit to the Veterans Agent and they would be inputted into the appropriate order, per the council and direction of the Veteran Organizations, Veterans Advisory Council, and Veterans' Agent.