



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

August 22, 2022

Cotter Room

6:00 p.m.

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

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

Moment of Silence: Walter "Rick" Breivogel, Jr., Marjorie "Midge" Chittim (attached)

Public Announcements:

- Mr. Hagerty: Wished students, faculty and parents a safe, healthy new school year. Wanted to remind everyone that the Town is still in a Step 4 water ban restriction since August 2, 2022. Water-saving tips can be found on the Town's Facebook page or by going to [Mass.gov/conserve/MAwater](https://www.mass.gov/conserve/MAwater).
The Jeff Coombs Foundation Road Race will now be the Abington COPES 5K and will be held on September 18th at 9 a.m. at the Woodsdale School in Abington. You can register online at [racewire.com](https://www.racewire.com) and find more information on Facebook [abingtoncopes](https://www.facebook.com/abingtoncopes).
- Mr. DiMarzio: Early voting starts Saturday, August 27th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., which is also the last day to register to vote for the state primary. Early voting is also August 29-September 1 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and September 2nd from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Town Offices Building, 500 Gliniewicz Way. For questions, please call Town Clerk Leanne Adams at 781-982-2112 or email her at lmadams@abingtonma.gov.
- Mr. Chapin: Wanted to thank the Abington Veterans' Services Director Adam Gunn and the American Legion for the ceremony that was held on August 8th dedicating Abington as a Purple Heart Town. The list of recipients is attached. If anyone knows of any other recipients that weren't mentioned, please contact VSO Adam Gunn.

Executive Session: Motion by Mr. Hagerty to:

1. Enter into executive session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, §21 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;
2. Enter into executive session in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A, §21 to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body and to reconvene in open session, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio. Roll call vote: Mr. Hagerty, aye; Mr. DiMarzio, aye; Mr. Chapin, aye; Mr. Bezanson, aye.

6:40 p.m. Request for Special Event Entertainment License, October 1 and 2, 2022, and one-day liquor license for beer truck on October 1st for 50th anniversary event at Seoane Landscape, 551 Bedford Street. John Warner attended representing Seoane. They are requesting a two-day liquor license for a beer truck from 12-4 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday. The Police Chief requested that they

hire a detail for the event. Mr. Warner has no problem with that. The Board won't make approval contingent upon that if they are unable to hire a detail. Motion by Mr. Chapin to approve a one-day liquor license for Saturday, October 1st from 12-4 p.m. and a one-day liquor license from 12-4 p.m. on Sunday, October 2nd, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous. The Board congratulated Seoane's on 50 years in business.

6:45 p.m. Request for Common Victualer and Entertainment Licenses, and to change dba from Ole Ole Cantina to Teffy's Restaurant and Bar, 800 Brockton Avenue, Joseph Armstrong, Manager.

Mr. Armstrong was not present. Motion to continue to September 12th made by Mr. Chapin, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.

6:50 p.m. Request for a one-day liquor license for Lions Club at the Senior Center on August 30th.

The Lions Club has been doing this for years. Wayne Smith is requesting that it be served from 5:30-9:30 p.m. and will be using the Bar Tending Service of New England and provided a Certificate of Insurance. Motion by Mr. Chapin to approve a one-day liquor license for the Lions Club on August 30th at the Abington Senior Center, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.

3. Motion by Mr. Hagerty to approve minutes for June 27, 2022, and July 11, 2022, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, 4 ayes, 1 abstention (Mr. Chapin).

4. Vote to approve the appointment of Chris Schultz as Health Agent. This is to confirm the Town Manager's appointment and the Board of Health's endorsement. Motion by Mr. Hagerty to approve the appointment of Chris Schultz as Abington Health Agent, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.

5. Request for appointment to Cable Advisory Committee, John Atanga. Mr. Bezanson explained this is the Advisory Committee, not the Board of Directors of the ABCAM Corporation. The Advisory Committee negotiates the contract for the town with Comcast and Verizon. Motion by Mr. DiMarzio to appoint John Atanga to the Cable Advisory Committee, seconded by Mr. Hagerty, unanimous.

Motion by Mr. Chapin to reopen 6:45 pm. request by **Joseph Armstrong, 800 Brockton Avenue**, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous. Mr. Armstrong will still be the owner. A transfer had gone before the board earlier in the year, but it didn't go through. He met with inspector today, and there are a few things he has to finish up before opening. Chris Carmichael, Building Commissioner, and Chris Schultz, Health Agent, still have to do final inspections. Stove top exhaust needed to be cleaned, which was done yesterday. He's waiting on the fire extinguishers to be updated. He needs a push bar on the rear door and needs to put up two signs that the doors will be unlocked while occupied. Mr. DiMarzio made a motion to continue the hearing to September 12th, which would give Mr. Armstrong a chance to get the remaining work and final inspections done, seconded by Mr. Chapin, unanimous.

6. Request for rate increase for Zoning Board of Appeals Filing Fee Schedule. Mr. Lambiasi explained the Department had looked at other towns in the surrounding areas to make sure the fees would be comparable. It is not so much to increase revenue, as it is a user fee and paying the expenses that go with it.

Shawn Reilly, 500 Washington Street: pointed out that the special permit for the floodplain which affects about half the property in Abington is going up to \$200. If there is a fee to lower

from the proposed rate, that would be one to consider. If the new rates are approved, please indicate when they are to become effective. They are already up on the website.

Mr. Kolodziej: didn't like the price increase on appeal of Building Inspector's decision, Zoning Enforcement decision and other administrative official decision. Going from \$50 to \$200 seems to him to make people not want to file an appeal.

There was discussion by the board and motion by Mr. DiMarzio to request more information, find out what other towns were looked at, and to correct the website to the original pricing, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej, unanimous.

7. Appointment to Plymouth County Advisory Board. Mr. Bezanson is the current member but did not wish to be reappointed. The Advisory Board is made up of one member from each of the 27 communities of Plymouth County. Mr. Chapin made the motion to appoint Mr. DiMarzio, seconded by Mr. Hagerty, unanimous.

8. Request for Special Municipal Employee Status for the Conservation Commission. Tim Warner, Vice Chair of the Commission, made the request. He conducts site visits, meets with applicants and town officials regarding Conservation matters, meets with peer review engineers and applicants' engineers to discuss flagging. He is self-employed which gives him the flexibility to serve the town and the Commission. He is a contractor and offers water and sewer services to the town and residents, as well as plowing. Mr. Bezanson explained the board cannot designate a single member of a board or committee – it must designate the SME status to the whole board or committee. Paul Bunker, Chairman, Conservation Commission – Tim is a valuable member of the Commission and without this status, the Commission would lose him which would be a detriment. This would not exempt the board from any ethics laws. Motion by Mr. Chapin to grant Special Municipal Employee Status to the Conservation Commission, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej, 4 ayes, 1 nay (Mr. DiMarzio).

9. Update with Alex Mazin on Bud's Goods and Provisions, 1540 Bedford Street. Mr. Mazin is CEO of Bud's Goods, which is an adult use cannabis retailer. Wanted to give an update after their first year anniversary. Things are running smoothly. They employ almost 25 people at the store, 6 or 7 of them from Abington. They recently presented their first host community agreement check for \$280,000. They are happy with how the store is performing and how they are adapting to the community's needs. The state of the industry is pretty rocky right now with over 215 stores in the state. Bud's hasn't seen growth since February. Pricing is starting to compress. There is an oversupply in the market, and another factor is inflation. There are new rules and regulations in place around host community agreements. Mr. Lambiase – the town hasn't heard of any complaints or issues, and they have been very good to work with whenever he has requested information. The board thanked him for the nice donation to the Abington Food Pantry.

10. Discussion and possible vote to approve retail license and Host Community Agreement with Elevated Roots LLC for retail sales, delivery, and cultivation of marijuana products at 1423 Bedford Street. Mr. Bezanson stepped down from this discussion. Peter D'Agostino, on behalf of Elevated Roots, explained they are seeking a host community agreement for a couple of different business operations related to the cannabis industry. They opened in Kingston two years ago and things are going very well. It is a collocated facility, so they have retail cultivation and

manufacturing out of that facility. They now have a second retail location in Halifax with the store going through its final licensing. They are hoping Abington will be their final store. They are looking to initially do a retail storefront for phase one, then the next phase would be cultivation and manufacturing. They are hoping to add delivery from this facility as well so it will probably be a multi-year process.

Retail facilities would be Bud's, NAP, Nash Mac, Elevated Roots if it's granted, Green Harbor. Elevated Roots would be delivery and Bean Collective is delivery only, not retail. For cultivation, it would be NAP, Nash Mac and Elevated Roots. There is only one delivery operator in the state right now operating. The licensing process and regulations took a while to be finalized. The Commonwealth's medical marijuana facilities have been delivering since their inception, but the adult use side direct to consumers just started in April. There are two types of delivery models in MA – a courier model and a delivery operator model.

Mr. Lambiase – the Governor has signed new regulations. KP Law is reviewing their request. Tonight, the Board is just authorizing him to enter into agreement discussions. Motion by Mr. Chapin to authorize the Town Manager to enter into negotiations for a Host Community Agreement with Elevated Roots LLC, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.

11. Vote to authorize Treasurer Collector Lindsay Grasso to be the Certifying Authority for the Sewer Force Main Project. Mr. Lambiase – this comes up quite often when we're bonding things. Motion by Mr. Chapin to authorize Treasurer Collector Lindsay Grasso to be the Certifying Authority for the Sewer Force Main Project, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.

12. Discussion and possible vote to adopt Purchase Card Policy and authorize purchase cards for specific department heads. It would primarily be the Town Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief, DPW Director, I.T. Director, Town Accountant, Treasurer Collector who may be purchasing some sort of supply equipment for education or training. This would be preferred to using our own credit cards and asking for reimbursement. There would be certain limits, and the card gives the town a 3% cash back discount. There was discussion by the board, with some members requesting more information. The Town Manager will be overseeing the policy. It was suggested that the Town Manager look at this on a monthly basis with the Accounting Department.

Motion by Mr. Chapin to approve the Purchase Card Policies and procedures as presented by the Town Manager, seconded by Mr. Kolodziej, 3 ayes, 2 opposed (Mr. DiMarzio, Mr. Hagerty).

13. Discussion and possible Vote to call for a Special Town Meeting to be held on September 27th at 7 p.m., located at the Abington High School Auditorium, and to open the Warrant for the same, said Warrant to be closed on September 12th. The Town Accountant has requested that we do it mostly to take care of some housekeeping matters. We got about \$50,000 more in State aid than anticipated; there was money received from Bud's Goods and Provisions; and we need to make some adjustments to the budget for the Building Department. We finally hired a new Building Commissioner and have restructured some things. We have some property that this Board and the Conservation Commission have approved and put into a conservation restriction but will need Town Meeting approval. Motion by Mr. Chapin to call for a Special Town Meeting to be held on September 27th at 7 p.m. located at the Abington High School Auditorium, and to open the Warrant for the same, seconded by Mr. DiMarzio, unanimous.

14. Discussion and possible vote to reduce the quorum required by the General Bylaw §152-4 of 150 persons for Special Town Meetings to 75 persons for the September 27th, 2022, Special Town Meeting as allowed by legislation. Shawn Reilly, Moderator - we are still allowed to do this, and have done this for the last few Town Meetings. Chris Schultz, Health Agent – didn't have special recommendations, other than if you feel sick, stay home; if you are comfortable wearing a mask, you can do so. He didn't think it was necessary to lower it for Covid reasons. Mr. Reilly – didn't think we would get a quorum without lowering it from 150 to 75. Board had a discussion on the pros and cons of lowering the quorum. Lowering the number doesn't prohibit people from coming, it just allows the meeting to start on time.

Motion by Mr. DiMarzio to reduce the quorum required by the General Bylaw §152-4 of 150 persons for Special Town Meetings to 75 persons for the September 27th, 2022, Special Town Meeting, seconded by Mr. Bezanson, 3 opposed (Mr. Hagerty, Mr. Chapin, Mr. Kolodziej), 2 ayes (Mr. DiMarzio, Mr. Bezanson).

15. Town Manager Report:

- The Warrant is open as of tonight for the September 27th Special Town Meeting, which will be mostly housekeeping, supplementing the Building Department budget, account consolidation, bargaining contracts for Police and DPW, and placing parcels of land under conservation restrictions.
- The next Annual Town Meeting will be Monday, April 3rd, 2023, and anticipate opening the warrant in December and closing it in February.
- The first draft of the FY24 budget will go to the Selectmen and Fin Com in mid-December. The Finance Committee will then start meeting with department heads.
- KP Law is looking over the new legislation on the host community agreement changes and will put out an advisory.
- Unrestricted government aid was increased by \$50,000.
- South Shore Tech reduced their assessment and Abington received a rebate for \$11,822.
- The town received an earmark for \$100,000 to study alternative water solutions.
- We received an additional earmark for \$25,000 to finish the upgrade of the Senior Center generator.
- Met with the Collins Center and received the final draft of the capital improvement plan. Will go over it on September 12th.
- Charter Review requested some clarification on some of the items the board sent them.
- Thanked Lisa Bezanson who put in a lot of work on the Charter Review Committee and recently stepped down. There is also a vacancy on the Finance Committee and Russ Fuller was thanked for his service to that committee. Please contact Shawn Reilly or the Town Manager if you are interested in serving on either of these committees.

Mr. Bezanson reached out to Peggy Keating who is a long-time resident who always watches the Selectmen's meetings and thanked her for faithfully watching.

Motion to adjourn made by Mr. DiMarzio, seconded by Mr. Chapin, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,


Nancy Hurst

WALTER F. "RICK" BREIVOGEL, JR.

Rick Breivogel died peacefully in his sleep on August 12, 2022. Following high school, he joined the Navy. He then spent 37 years employed by the Town of Abington in various capacities.

He loved the water and was an avid boater, water skier and fisherman, and created many wonderful memories with his family through the years. His family was his pride and joy. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

MARJORIE "MIDGE" CHITTIM

Midge Chittim passed away on August 12th at 105 years of age. She taught at the Center School in Abington for many years and was loved by many of her students who enjoyed listening to her stories. She was considered by many to be their favorite teacher. She was a long-time resident of Abington, and could frequently be found taking walks, always looking perfectly groomed and attired. Midge taught piano lessons and was a member of the Old Abington Historical Society. She was remembered by many as a wonderful woman, teacher and Christian. She will be missed by her many close friends and family.

Rest in peace, Midge.

Living Purple Heart Recipients

Rick Franey

John Beadle (not from Abington but does a lot for Abington Veterans Organizations)

Kurt J Power (not mentioned in ceremony, found out about him after the ceremony was over- shot by a sniper in Iraq)

Deceased Purple Heart Recipients

Herbert Bailey

Carl Bombardier

William "Billy" Cox

Walter Fitts

Melvin Libby

Charles Mason

Jack Murphy

Spillane

Bill Ulwick

Purple Heart Recipients from Abington who were Killed in Action

World War I

Edgar D. Bascom

Lloyd E. Crossman

Lewis V. Dorsey

Robert B. English

John J. Mahoney

Charles E. Murphy

Charles S. Myers

World War II

Charles H. Bellows, Jr.

Wendell E. Chamberlin

Lloyd R. Clapp

Elton E. Ekstrom

Roy E. Hjelm

Wellington Jamieson

John P. Keeley

Clifford R. Kimber

Richard L. McCue

Harold R. McGeogh

Harold R. Olson

John I. Plummer

Russell F. Pierce

John J. Rice

Frank O. Warner, Jr.

Vietnam

Pete B. Christianson
Richard F. Gliniewicz
Glenn R. Gordon
Ralph G. Hamlin, Jr.
Ernest H. Laidler
Richard A. Fitts

Afghanistan

Daniel M. Vasselian