



Town of Abington Select Board

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**Minutes
Select Board
June 23, 2025
Cotter Room
6:00 p.m.**

Members Present: Roger Woods, Chairman, Suzanne Djusberg, Paul Bunker, Amanda Zompetti, Scott Lambiase, Town Manager
Absent: Kevin Donovan

The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance

1. Plymouth County Commissioners ARPA Check Presentation – Chairman Jared Valanzola, Commissioner Greg Hanley and Treasurer Tom O’Brien presented the Board with a check for \$511,865. They appreciated Amanda Zompetti serving on the Advisory Board. He thanked Representative Alyson Sullivan-Almeida, as well as Senator Keenan who have advocated and supported this program, and Mr. Lambiase and the entire team in Abington. The HVAC project was the ideal use. Commissioner Hanley – brought greetings from Congressman Lynch. They have relied on him heavily in DC to make sure that the funds were secured in our name, specifically when it came to CARES. They were recognized for having the lowest administrative cost for money given in the country. Tom O’Brien, Treasurer - there is an additional check for a project that was started, but there was extra work that needed to be done - \$22,469.53. They appreciated the collaboration with Abington and thanked every veteran in Abington for their service. The Board thanked them for coming and for the checks, and a quick photo was taken.

Announcements:

- Ms. Zompetti gave her resignation. Her family will be leaving the state, and this will be her last meeting. The Board wished her the best in her future endeavors.
- Select Board schedule for the remainder of the year: July 10, 2025, at **10 a.m.**; the Board meetings will now be starting at **5 p.m.** – September 8 & 22, 2025; October 27, 2025; November 10, 2025; December 8, 2025.
- Mr. Woods thanked Seoane’s Landscaping for beautifying the entrance to Town Hall with the flower displays in the pots by the front doors which they have done for many years and truly appreciated.

Public Hearing:

6:05 p.m. Request for transfer of Class II license from South Shore Auto Gallery, Inc., to South Shore Automobile LLC, dba South Shore Auto Gallery, Abdullah Inanir, Manager, 15 Groveland Street. Motion by Ms. Djusberg to open the hearing, seconded by Ms. Zompetti, unanimous.

Mevlut Ikiz, the owner, explained they purchased the property from the existing owner of the real estate and the car dealership. The application was in order. There were no questions from the Board or the floor. Motion by Ms. Djusberg to approve the transfer, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.

2. Vote to approve four-way stop signs on Linwood and Groveland Streets per John Stone. This was fully funded by a grant, and it is one of our most dangerous intersections. Motion by Ms. Djusberg to approve, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.
3. Francine Bell re Abington Hero Banners – she is a senior volunteer with Veterans Services working on this project. Application for the banners will be available on Monday, July 7th online and in Town Hall. The first 76 applications will qualify for the 2025 banners. Applications coming in after that will have to wait two years for their banners to go up around Veterans' Day and come down around Memorial Day and be up for two years. There is a sliding scale for the price of the banners. John Stone will determine the location of the banners. The Board thanked Ms. Bell for her help with this project. Each of the veterans' organizations will get one banner of their choice.
4. Adam Gunn, VSO, re vehicle fundraising project; Flag presentation created by South Shore Vocational Technical High School; and update on Veterans Services projects. He thanked Ms. Bell for all she's done. The 6' wooden American flag made by the students at the South Shore Vocational Technical High School was displayed. Because of the beautiful craftsmanship, he requested to be able to have it hung in the hall outside his office so everyone could see it. The Board agreed.

Vehicle fundraising project – this would not be possible without the help and support of the Abington Rotary Club. They are committed to raising \$80,000 for a brand new 2025 wheelchair transportation vehicle with a ramp. This will be for veterans, widows and gold star families. Students at the SSVT have designed a vehicle wrap and helped design a logo for the office, and a QR code to link to our website for the work Rev. Dr. Kristy Coburn has done on those killed in action. They have reached out to a local design company who has updated the design. They are hoping to launch the program in 2026. He thanked the Rotary Club for supporting them and showed the vehicle designs.

Purple Heart Toppers – through the Veterans Advisory Council and volunteers, they plan to place Purple Heart toppers for all 36 Abington deceased recipients. Plan was mentioned last year to Kevin Donovan and Roger Woods, and Roger pledged to secure the funding. It was raised with six phone calls in 20 minutes. Peter and Janice Walters went through approximately 2600 veterans' records. Up until then we only had six deceased Purple Heart recipients, but because of their efforts, we now have 36. Thanks to Phil Delany who has gone through the records and created a website, a beautiful tribute will be revealed on Purple Heart Day on August 7th that will display all the information on those recipients. The topper was displayed. To receive a Purple Heart, one must have been wounded in combat.

Adam expressed his appreciation to the six volunteers who come to his office weekly, clean graves, weed the Veterans Memorial, veterans organizations, Town departments, Town Manager, Select Board. Mr. Woods – on behalf of the Board thanked all the volunteers and felt it spoke volumes of Adam that he had all these people willing to step up and help him.

5. Abington Summer Concerts Committee with summer schedule – Jan Prall explained this is the 21st season of free concerts. They are supported by sponsors at \$200 and up and donors \$25-199. Concerts start July 6th-August 24th. The Lions run the Snack Shack and Cream brings the

traveling ice cream cart. They couldn't do it without the support of the Select Board, the DPW, the School, the custodians and the volunteers. She gave a rundown of the concert schedule. They are still looking for members. Abington CAM was thanked for videotaping all the concerts. They really need a van for transportation. They hired one last year, but it is too expensive. In case of rain, the concerts are held in the High School Auditorium.

6. Vote to appoint Kevin Cogan, Deputy Town Planner, to Commission on Disabilities – motion by Ms. Djusberg, seconded by Mr. Bunker to approve Kevin Cogan, unanimous.
7. Melissa Cook, Teen Center Initiative Committee – Melissa Cook, with Abington COPEs, read from a CDC survey on teen suicide. The group is looking for space for a youth-teen center. They will be doing fundraising and looking into grants. There is a mental health crisis. They wondered if there was any available space in town. Mr. Woods has talked with the Town Manager. The Frolio doesn't work because it's not handicap accessible. A center is a great idea, and the Board is in support. They will look into it.
8. Vote to adopt updated Open Space & Recreation Plan, Jason Desrosier, OCPC - There is a virtual meeting with Rhiannon Duggan on June 25th. Motion by Ms. Zompetti to approve the updated plan, seconded by Ms. Djusberg, unanimous. Ms. Zompetti thanked the Open Space & Recreation Commission for the work they have done.
9. Discussion on rat problem complaints in North Abington. Mr. Woods – the Board of Health is on this. There will be an update on the second meeting in September.

Donna Gendreau – she has lived in her house for 29 years and hasn't seen them before this year. She had to hire a company to get rid of them. She wondered if the chickens in Town are affecting this. The Board of Health is looking into limiting the number of chickens people can have and get them inspected. There are chickens that roam the neighborhood. Ms. Zompetti – has had chickens. Rats don't bother the chickens, but the woods are full of them, and she's never seen that before. She's seen a big uptick since the Summer Street project started. Ms. Gendreau – there are mice and rats in the High School. Something needs to be done to control the population. Mr. Woods – the Board will have the Town Manager talk with the Board of Health and report back to the Board at the second meeting in September on an action plan. He has seen them too.
10. Approval of May 12, 2025, Minutes – motion by Ms. Djusberg to approve, seconded by Ms. Zompetti, unanimous.
11. Vote to approve 906 Bedford Street Mobil for KENO monitor – motion by Ms. Djusberg to approve, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.
12. Vote to approve annual commercial garage license renewals – motion by Ms. Djusberg to approve pending receipt of all paperwork, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.
13. Vote to designate “No Parking” on Park Avenue after 7pm with the exception of residents in front of their homes. Mr. Woods – the Police have been out straight; we have a great force. There is a lot going on in Abington that we don't know about because they take care of it before it becomes an issue.

Police Chief Bonney – they appreciate the support from the community and the Board. He and Lt. Canada have been meeting with Kelly Johnson of Park & Rec and are working on signage in multiple languages for “no trespassing.” They are trying to be proactive. On Saturday, lifeguards leave at 5 p.m. just after closing, and officers responded twice to remove people from

the pool. At 6:15 p.m. later that night units did another search of the area and found about 40 people in the pool who were less than cooperative in getting out. At 7:34 p.m. they were back again. They leave the pool area and go into the wooded area. At 12:14 a.m. Sunday, the officers did another check in there and found four men wearing masks sitting at a table. One took off on foot, one had a warrant for robbery, one was taken into custody and the other two were led away. No one was from Abington. Three vehicles were parked outside the gates, all with detached plates, no insurance; three people were charged. So now there have been four criminal offenses during off peak hours over the weekend. They were from Rockland, Stoughton, Fall River. At 6:35 p.m. two more people were there with no active registration from Boston and Roxbury.

They want to keep this area safe for Abington residents. They are working with Kelly Johnson on putting up physical barriers and more signage at the pool that will allow them to charge for criminal trespassing after it closes. There used to be a “no trespass after sunset.” What he would like to do is have a “no trespass in the park after 7 p.m.” They had to depend on mutual aid with so much coverage at the Grove. No trespass at 7 p.m. would give them definite parameters. Mr. Woods and the Town Manager spoke about this and agree with the Chief. This is a huge liability for the Town. Ms. Djusberg was in favor of 7 p.m.

Open to the floor:

Rachel Collins, Park & Rec – they are keeping the pool open later on two days. Agrees with 7 p.m. no trespass.

Pete Walters – re cars parked on the street. Chief – they can run the plates. There is always an appeal process also, and there would be exceptions for events.

Judy O’Brien – has taken part as Civil War reenactor at the Grove and agrees with 7 p.m.

Donna Gendreau – question on whether it would be the whole park or just the pool. The whole park. She agrees.

Motion by Ms. Djusberg that there would be “no parking” on Park Avenue and Lake Street after 7 p.m. with the exception of residents in front of their homes, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous. Motion by Ms. Zompetti to adjust the signage in the Grove to “No Trespass after 7 p.m.,” seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.

14. Vote on annual board and committee appointments/reappointments – motion by Ms. Djusberg to approve the list of appointments other than Veterans Advisory Council, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous. Motion to appoint Phil Delany to the Veterans Advisory Council for a three-year term, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous. Motion by Ms. Zompetti to appoint Janice Walters to the Veterans Advisory Council for a three-year term, as recommended by Adam Gunn, seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.

Mr. Woods and the rest of the Board thanked Ms. Zompetti for her time and work spent while on the Board and wished her well in her future endeavors. Ms. Djusberg motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:17 p.m., seconded by Mr. Bunker, unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Hurst