

**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM
21 SOUTH MAIN STREET, UXBRIDGE, MA
MONDAY, OCTOBER 30, 2023 – 6:30 PM**

POST TOWN CLERK
2024 OCT 30 10:05 AM

As it pertains to Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 30A Section 20(f), Board meetings are being recorded; anyone wishing to record a meeting should notify the Board Chair as soon as possible before recording.

Present: Chairman Jeffrey Shaw, Vice Chairman John Wise, Clerk Brian Plasko, and Members Peter DeMers and Stephen Mandile

Also Present: Town Manager Steve Sette, Administrative Assistant Alexandra Clauss

- 1) CALL TO ORDER – Chairman Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:32 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited. Due to technical difficulties, the beginning portion of the meeting was audio only with no video recording; video went live on UCTV recording at 28 minutes, 26 seconds.

2) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Volunteers Needed: **HIGHLIGHT – Capital Planning Committee**

Please see the Clerk's Office or Town Manager's Office for a complete list of openings.

- b) Uxcellent News: Clerk Plasko regarding –

- i. October is National Principal's Month to recognize those who help shape our Nation!
- ii. UHS designated as Unified Champion School by Massachusetts Special Olympics, school year 2022-2023, for providing opportunities and activities of inclusion
- iii. Special recognition to Uxbridge Police & Fire for their participation in Trunk or Treat
- iv. Halloween Night – please be safe and drive slowly
- v. Update on Uxbridge Spartan Sports, featuring Field Hockey and Football
- vi. Uxbridge Veteran's Day Parade
- vii. Special Thanks to McKenna Savage for opening Town Meeting with such inspiration
- viii. Special Congratulations to Delilah on her Firetruck ride to school

3) CITIZENS' FORUM

- a) Ray Talke, 172 West Hartford Avenue, regarding moving meetings to Lower Town Hall for better accessibility; and, sensory accessibility issues with the acoustics in that room; further regarding Town Counsel, proper preparation for Town Meeting, and due diligence in selecting new Town Counsel when the time comes.

4) TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

- a) Clarification on mention of Town Meeting from above Citizens' Forum
- b) Unilock Ribbon Cutting – October 13th
- c) Diversity Training – October 18th
- d) Treasurer/Collector Interviews are ongoing
- e) Fall Annual Town Meeting was October 24th with MIIA Fall Review on Healthcare to follow
- f) Post Town Meeting: Tax Recap Meeting with Town Manager, Town Accountant, and Principal Assessor with Tax Recap Hearing to be scheduled for November 13th
- g) Began budget process for FY 25
- h) Monthly Report coming out tomorrow
- i) Resident request for East Hartford Avenue Causeway Committee first meeting

5) BUSINESS

a) Board/Committee Appointment: Housing Authority – Elizabeth Clark, expiration 10/30/2028

The term of appointment for Elizabeth has expired; however, Elizabeth expressed an interest in being reappointed for another term. Updates to the file have been made to include length of appointment and regarding the Board of Selectmen appointed seat for the Housing Authority.

MOTION: Mandile

SECOND: Plasko

VOTE: that the Town reappoint Elizabeth Clark to the Uxbridge Housing Authority for a term to expire on October 30th, 2028. All in favor. The motion carried 5-0-0.

DeMers-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Plasko-AYE, Wise-AYE, Shaw-AYE

b) Uxbridge Police Department Accreditation Presentation

As mentioned at last week's Town Meeting, the Uxbridge Police Department recently received accreditation status for the Department. Chief Montminy and Sergeant Josiah Morrisette were present in person and gave a presentation to the Board about what that entailed. Sergeant Morrisette received certification in May and accreditation in October; Uxbridge is now a fully accredited agency within the State of Massachusetts.

MOTION: Wise

SECOND: Mandile

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen offer its Congratulations and Thanks to Chief Marc Montminy and all the officers and staff of the Uxbridge Police Department on achieving this status. All in favor. The motion carried 5-0-0.

DeMers-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Plasko-AYE, Wise-AYE, Shaw-AYE

c) Cresco Labs Odor Mitigation Plan, 100 Campanelli Drive – Presentation

This agenda item was passed over and the presentation postponed until Cresco is ready to present; possible presentation mentioned for a December Board of Selectmen meeting.

d) Discussion: Uxbridge High School Second Egress

The subject of a secondary egress from the Uxbridge High School has been on the agenda of the Public Safety Committee for a few meetings and was added to the agenda for discussion by the Board of Selectmen for informational purposes. Town Manager Sette provided background from the Public Safety Committee and Police Chief Montminy was present in person to provide clarification and answer questions. Chief reviewed various planning options for the second egress with safe emergency vehicle access a main concern; discussion ensued to include the state's involvement in the project, with mention of needing relief from traffic congestion around the High School. Future action and decision may be needed by the Board of Selectmen. Fuss and O'Neill has created a projection for the emergency access road; options were discussed in preparation for future decision. Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is involved with final decision because of the 300 Quaker Highway Conservation Restriction in place; discussion on the Conservation Restriction occurred.

e) Continuations for Discussion and Possible Votes:

i) Big Y Foods, Inc., 250 South Main Street: Memorandum of Understanding – Review & Sign

The TIF for Big Y Foods was approved by the State on Thursday, September 21st and now the Town has asked Big Y to memorialize their other commitments, as previously suggested by the Board of Selectmen. The Big Y Attorney has forwarded a Memorandum of Understanding for the Board to consider. Discussion occurred regarding Vehicle Excise Tax for the storage of yard vehicles in Uxbridge; further regarding Big Y making a commitment to work with the local food pantry. Once Big Y is operational, an invitation should be extended to Big Y management to tour the local food pantry to kick start that relationship and help it flourish.

MOTION: Wise

SECOND: Plasko

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen sign the Memorandum of Understanding with Big Y Foods. All in favor. The motion carried 5-0-0.

DeMers-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Plasko-AYE, Wise-AYE, Shaw-AYE

6) MEMBER ISSUES & COMMENTS

- a) Member Mandile regarding: Fall Annual Town Meeting, lack of Voter representation, and ways to get more individuals involved in Town Meeting; items for future Meeting Agendas: Chief Financial Officer; naming Director of HR; review of Policy regarding Board of Selectmen presence and involvement at Town Hall; and, question on whistleblower protection or Policy to ensure those in Town Hall feel open to express themselves without recourse and know who to speak with when needed – with a new HR Director, this concern and Policy would fall under their responsibility and Department.
- b) Member DeMers regarding: Annual Licensing recognition; and, Uxbridge Auto footprint versus License language.

7) MEETING MINUTES

- a) Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee dated September 19, 2023

MOTION: Wise

SECOND: Mandile

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen accept Meeting Minutes from September 19, 2023. All in favor. The motion carried 5-0-0. *DeMers-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Plasko-AYE, Wise-AYE, Shaw-AYE*

- b) Board of Selectmen Meeting September 21, 2023

MOTION: Wise

SECOND: Mandile

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen accept Meeting Minutes of September 21, 2023. All in favor. The motion carried 5-0-0. *DeMers-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Plasko-AYE, Wise-AYE, Shaw-AYE*

- c) Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee dated September 21, 2023

MOTION: Wise

SECOND: Mandile

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen accept Meeting Minutes of the Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee on September 21, 2023. All in favor. The motion carried 5-0-0.

DeMers-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Plasko-AYE, Wise-AYE, Shaw-AYE

- 8) EXECUTIVE SESSION – the Board of Selectmen adjourned their regularly scheduled meeting at 8:04 PM to move into Executive Session regarding the listed reason and case below.

MOTION: Mandile

SECOND: Plasko

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to Caroline's Cannabis v. Town of Uxbridge, Worcester Superior Court C.A. NO. 2285CV00406; and, the Chair declares that an open meeting may have detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body; and to not reconvene in open session and to adjourn from Executive Session. ROLL CALL VOTE: DeMers-YES, Mandile-YES, Plasko-YES, Wise-YES, Shaw-YES

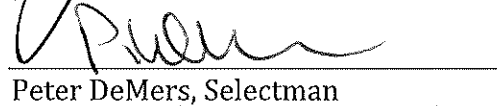
Minutes respectfully submitted by Alexandra Clauss

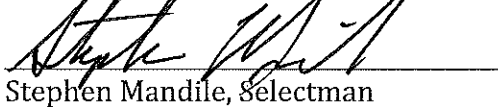
October 30, 2023 minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen:

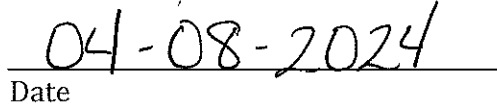

Jeffrey Shaw, Chair


John Wise, Vice Chair


Brian Plasko, Clerk


Peter DeMers, Selectman


Stephen Mandile, Selectman


Date

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used:

Agenda Packet

Housing Authority Appointment Packet

Uxbridge Police Department Accreditation Presentation

Uxbridge High School 2nd Egress – Agenda item email request

Big Y Memorandum of Understanding and email correspondence

Meeting Minutes dated: September 19, 2023 Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee, September 21, 2023, September 21, 2023 Joint Meeting with the Finance Committee