

TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM
21 SOUTH MAIN STREET, UXBRIDGE, MA
MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 2023 – 6:30 PM

2024 APR 23 08:43

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 6:30 PM and the Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2) ANNOUNCEMENTS

a) Volunteers Needed: **HIGHLIGHT** – Historic District Commission

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

b) Uxcellent News – Clerk Plasko regarding:

- i. Student Council Recognition for Veterans breakfast at the Senior Center, Town clean up, and supporting the Town and athletes.
- ii. Uxbridge Spartan Sports Recognition & Highlight: Cheerleading, Field Hockey, Football
- iii. Veterans Day – thank you to Chairman Shaw, Member Mandile, and all Veterans; thank you to Adeline Greenwald for playing Taps on the Common!
- iv. Senior Center Thanksgiving lunch distribution: Monday, November 20th
- v. Uxbridge First Night: December 2nd – donations can be made at Mendon Street Kitchen
- vi. Congratulations to Firefighter Nick Allen on graduation from the Fire Academy!
- vii. Uxbridge High School Athletic Hall of Fame Ceremony at Arrowhead Acres – Congrats!
- viii. Friday/Saturday Double Theatre Feature by Uxbridge High School
- ix. Peter DeMers regarding: Congratulations to Fire –
 - i. Jason Gomes, previous FF/EMT, promoted to Lieutenant in charge of EMS operations!
 - ii. Dedication of Firefighter Nick Allen and graduation from the Fire Academy!

3) CITIZENS' FORUM

- a) Fran Graveson, 52 Albee Road, in person regarding the Board of Selectmen making a statement against the recent Nationalist Social Club activity in Uxbridge; gave background to the recent activities and hatred viewed/experienced in Uxbridge.
- b) David Tapscott, 608 Elmwood Avenue, in person regarding recent hatred in Uxbridge, with an ask that the Board of Selectmen make an agenda item at the next meeting to include a statement, as requested above, as next steps to make Uxbridge community more welcoming.
- c) Pat Stephan, 44 Andrews Drive, via Zoom regarding personal experience and support for the above with mention of the Holocaust Memorial in Boston.
- d) Joanne Lindenmeyer, 720 East Hartford Avenue, in person regarding commentary to expand on the above as a resident of Uxbridge for 18 years with the same ask for the Board of Selectmen to make a statement against the recent hatred, as silence is complacency.

4) TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

- a) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) Meetings; support for the speakers at Citizens' Forum
- b) Treasurer/Collector starts Monday!
- c) Financial Team and Town Audit
- d) Maslow's Way Meeting with KP Law and DPW Director, Benn Sherman
- e) Open Space Committee – new Board of Selectmen appointee this evening: Christiana Thulare
- f) Capital Planning – new Town Manager appointee: Nicholas Simonds
- g) Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI): 11/7 Meeting follow up; future training coming for the Town – be on the lookout for this posting on the website!
- h) PFAS Settlements from litigation with Dupont and 3M (National issue) – Uxbridge Town wells are being retested at no cost to the Town!
- i) Mass EPA Meeting on Wednesday with and regarding Millville Water Issue; grant applications for the Town of Uxbridge and Millville already submitted! A priority project for Uxbridge is the pump station at Kempton Road, with Millville Water Connection following; funds coming from Millville to offset those costs with about \$1 million coming from Rep. McGovern's Office.

5) BUSINESS

- a) Alcohol License Surrender – Section 12: All Alcoholic Beverages, Club – Charles A. Rice Post

The Charles A. Rice Post 33 American Legion, Inc., 59 Douglas Street, sold their building and needs to surrender their Club All-alcoholic beverages license. Brief discussion ensued regarding Alcohol licensing and the current numbers allowed in Uxbridge; the Board voted unanimously below.

MOTION: Wise

SECOND: Mandile

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen accept the surrender of the All-Alcoholic Beverages, Club License from the Charles A. Rice Post 33. All in favor. The motion carried 5-0-0.

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

- b) Appointment: Acting Town Manager for 11/20 – 11/30 – Vote

The Town Manager will be away from the office and out of the country from November 20th – November 30, 2023; the Town Charter calls for the appointment of an Acting Town Manager during this period to handle day to day matters. Discussion ensued to include who has previously been appointed as Acting Town Manager; Fire Department Chief Dion was appointed unanimously for the term Voted below, due to his proximity to Town Hall to oversee these daily matters.

MOTION: DeMers

SECOND: Mandile

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen appoint Chief Dion as the Acting Town Manager for the period covering November 20, 2023, through November 30, 2023. All in favor. The motion carried 5-0-0. *DeMers-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Plasko-AYE, Wise-AYE, Shaw-AYE*

- c) Board/Committee Appointment: Open Space Committee – Christiana Thulare

The Town Manager has already interviewed Christiana for this position and recommends her appointment to this Committee.

MOTION: Mandile

SECOND: Plasko

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen appoint Christiana Thulare to the Open Space Committee for the term to expire on June 30th, 2026. All in favor. The motion carried 5-0-0.

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

d) Board of Selectmen Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report – Review and Vote

Board of Selectmen Clerk Brian Plasko has compiled this report for the Board's approval. Brief discussion ensued to review typographical errors and make corrections for approval and posting.

MOTION: Wise

SECOND: Mandile

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen approve the Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report with edits as discussed. 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 the recent acts of hate around Uxbridge; hate has no home here!
- b) Member DeMers regarding residents coming forward with these issues and clarification on an earlier comment that mentioned the Board of Selectmen have taken no action thus far; action cannot be taken when issues are not brought forward to the Board of Selectmen.
- c) Vice Chairman Wise regarding personal statement on the above-mentioned hatred and exercising caution when it comes to acknowledging these hate groups; everyone is welcome in Uxbridge, all are equal here. Further: recognition to those involved in the Veteran's Day Parade!
- d) Extensive discussion between Board of Selectmen members occurred; all members provided input regarding acts of hatred, everyone being welcome in Uxbridge, and coming forward with concerns so they may be addressed as soon as possible. Discussion of further solutions to move forward occurred to include continued participation in DEI meetings; as well as further discussion to review how to make Uxbridge more welcoming.
- e) Chairman Shaw read the statement provided by Dr. David Tapscott earlier in the meeting; further discussion ensued to include Uxbridge's role as a community and Town, as well as discussion following the Veteran's Day Parade.

The Select Board of Uxbridge firmly endorses the rights of all persons, regardless of skin color, gender, sexual orientation, or ethnic origin, to live peacefully in this Town. The only statements or activities not welcome here are ones which promote hatred and bigotry against any Uxbridge citizen.

7) MEETING MINUTES – dated September 25, 2023:

MOTION: Mandile

SECOND: Plasko

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen accept Meeting Minutes of September 25, 2023. All in favor. The motion carried 5-0-0. *DeMers-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Plasko-AYE, Wise-AYE, Shaw-AYE*

8) ADJOURNMENT: NEXT REGULAR BOARD MEETING: **MONDAY, NOVEMBER 27, 2023.**

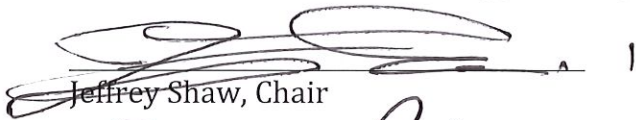
MOTION: Wise

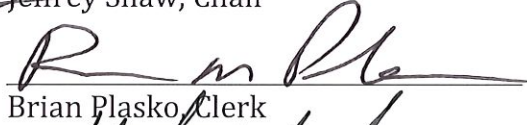
SECOND: Mandile

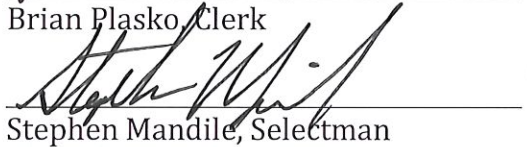
VOTE: to adjourn this November 13, 2023 meeting at 7:48 PM. All in favor. The motion carried 5-0-0. *DeMers-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Plasko-AYE, Wise-AYE, Shaw-AYE*

*Signatures, List of Documents,
& Other Exhibits Used: Page 4*


Minutes respectfully submitted by Alexandra Clauss
November 13, 2023 minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen:


Jeffrey Shaw, Chair


Brian Plasko, Clerk


Stephen Mandile, Selectman


John Wise, Vice Chair


Peter DeMers, Selectman

04-23-2024
Date

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used:

Agenda Packet

Alcohol License Surrender Packet

Board/Committee Appointment: Talent Bank Form

Board of Selectmen Fiscal Year 2022 Annual Report

Meeting Minutes dated: September 25, 2023 with attachment

Citizens' Forum Submission – Statement Letter