

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK
2021 JAN 7 PM 4:49

**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
LOCATION: BOARD MEETING ROOM AND REMOTE
21 S. MAIN STREET, UXBRIDGE, MA
MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2020 6:30 P.M.**

MEETING MINUTES

Present: Chair Brian Butler, Vice Chair Jeffrey Shaw, Clerk Brian Plasko, and Select Board Member Stephen Mandile. Also present: Town Manager Steven Sette, Ken O'Brien, Town Assessor, Michelle Laramie, Town Accountant, Lisa Troast, Treasurer/Collector, Benn Sherman, Director of Public Works, Patrick Stephan, Charter Review Committee, Uxbridge Community Television and Kathy Tipping, Administrative Assistant. Other Attendees on Zoom: Caroline Frankel, Caroline's Cannabis, Nicholas Obolensky, Attorney for Caroline's Cannabis. Evan Thompson, Thompson Auto Sales, Thomas Fields, Sean Matthews, Kristin Costello, Tony Lombardo, James Smith, Robert DoRosario, Stephen O'Connell, Turning Point, Corinna Cosmoa, Jason Tieuli, PCoraccio, Alissa Nowak, Ryan Green, Bill Freer.

1. CALL TO ORDER & SALUTE TO THE FLAG

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, § 18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020, Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Uxbridge Board of Selectmen was conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. A reminder that persons who would like to view/listen to this meeting live may do so by watching the Government Channel @ www.uxbridgetv.org or on Uxbridge Community Television Channel 191. For those unable to watch it live, you may view the recording of the meeting on the Government Channel @ <http://archive.uxbridgetv.org>.

2. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Reminder-Continuation of Fall Annual Town Meeting is scheduled 12/15/20 @ 7:00 pm outside, at McCloskey School Field.
Mr. Butler announced a reminder that the Continuation of the Fall Annual Town Meeting will be held on Tuesday, 12/15/20 and encouraged all town residents attend if able.
- Volunteers Needed – See Town Clerk's Office or Town Manager's Office for list of openings.
Mr. Butler announced that there are several openings for volunteers on several Committees, and if anyone is interested, to please complete a Talent Bank Form online and submit it to either the Town Manager's Office or the Town Clerk's Office.

UXCELLENT NEWS (Brian Plasko)

- **West River Road Cleanup - Recognition**

Mr. Plasko thanked and recognized the many volunteers that helped with the clean up of the West River Road area. It was a wonderful turnout. Mr. Butler also thanked all those who attended, in particular the many children that turned out to help. A full dump truck was dropped off at Bergquist Trucking at no charge. Great Event.

3. CITIZEN'S FORUM

- No questions or comments

4. BUSINESS

a. **PUBLIC HEARING: FY21 Tax Classification Hearing**

Mr. Ken O'Brien presented Uxbridge's Tax Recapitulation for Classification for FY21 and a breakdown by property Class in order to determine whether or not the Town should keep a single tax rate or consider a split tax rate and then set what the rate will be. Mr. O'Brien explained the total levy and new growth for FY21. The overall town wide annual revaluation resulted in an approximate 5% increase in valuation on residential properties and an approximate 4% increase for commercial. He further explained using a factor of "1" would result in a tax rate for FY21 of \$15.82 for all classes and would result in a residential tax reduction from the tax rate of \$16.72 in FY20. The Board discussed and asked questions of Mr. O'Brien. The Board agreed that a single tax rate would be their recommendation.

MOTION: Mr. Plasko motioned that the Board of Selectmen approve a single tax rate based on the information provided. Motion seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. O'Brien also explained the calculations based on a Dual Tax Rate Classification with examples of different residential exemption shifts and commercial exemption. The Board discussed and asked questions of Mr. O'Brien. The Board agreed not to institute a Residential Exemption or a Commercial Exemption at this time and to maintain status quo.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw motioned the Board of Selectmen do not institute a Residential Exemption shift. Motion seconded by Mr. Plasko. Roll Call Vote: Plasko, YES; Mandile YES, Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw motioned the Board of Selectmen do not allow a small commercial exemption at this time, with the provisions of said paragraph. Motion seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES, Mandile YES, Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. O'Brien thanked Ms. Laramee, Town Accountant, Ms. Troast, Town Treasurer/Collector, and teams, for all of their guidance and assistance.

b. **Marijuana Limited Delivery Presentation**

Caroline Frankel, owner and operator of Caroline's Cannabis presented her plan for a limited delivery service operation in the Town of Uxbridge. The Cannabis Control Commission recently approved delivery of this type for certain operators, i.e. Social Equity Partners, of which Caroline is one. The Board asked questions of Ms. Frankel and her Attorney and unanimously voted to support the delivery plan. Attorney Obolensky stated the vote tonight would allow Caroline's Attorney to move forward to negotiate with the Town.

MOTION: Mr. Mandile moved that the Board of Selectmen support the delivery plan presented by Caroline's Cannabis and authorize the Town Manager to execute the proper agreement on behalf of the Town. Mr. Plasko seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion Carried 4-0.

c. **Town Meeting Quorum Change**

As previously discussed, the FATM will be held outdoors on Tuesday, December 15th, since there is only one article left for discussion and the fact that the meeting will be held outdoors; there is concern regarding getting a quorum for the meeting; the Governor's Order has given the Board of Selectmen the ability to adjust the normal quorum due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Board discussed reducing the quorum to 25 voters. The required advertising for this has been appearing on the Town Website. The Board will need to meet again on Wednesday night, December 9th to vote after tonight's discussion in accordance with the Governor's order. The Board discussed the issue with Mr. Maharay, Town Moderator and Steve Sette, Town Manager and agreed to reduce the quorum to 25 voters for the outdoor Town Meeting on December 15th. A vote will be taken at the Board of Selectmen Meeting on Wednesday, December 9th.

d. **Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 12- Discussion and Vote**

The Town Moderator has suggested that the Motion for Article 12 be broken into four different motions and voted separately. The Board of Selectmen need to consider these four motions and vote accordingly. Mr. Maharay was in attendance via Zoom to explain the motions and answer any questions. Mr. Maharay also indicated all votes require a two-thirds majority since it is a zoning by-law.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw motioned that the Board of Selectmen recommend favorable action on Article 12 (VOTE 1) - to address the Attorney General's comments. Motioned seconded by Mr. Plasko. Roll Call VOTE: Plasko YES; Mandile YES, Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw motioned the Board of Selectmen recommend favorable action on Article 12 (VOTE 2) – to address a Scrivener Error regarding the Agricultural Zoning District. Motioned seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES, Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw motioned that the Board of Selectmen recommend favorable action on Article 12 (VOTE 3) for the Scrivener Errors -having to do with the Table of Dimensional Requirements. Motion seconded by Mr. Plasko. Plasko, YES; Mandile YES, Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw motioned that the Board of Selectmen recommend favorable action on Article 12 (VOTE 4) for Modification to the number of stories and maximum height in Zones B, 1A & 1B. Motion seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

Mr. Sette indicated he would have the hand-out information, as written, will be posted on the Town's Website tomorrow.

e. **Street Acceptance Policy – 1st Reading**

Mr. Sherman gave a brief overview of the Street Acceptance Policy and noted most documents are in draft form. Mr. O'Connell requested a copy of the document. Mr. Sette stated it will also be posted on the Town Website tomorrow. Mr. Shaw requested any comments be sent to the Board one week prior to the next meeting so they may be reviewed prior.

MOTION: Mr. Mandile motioned the Board of Selectmen to waive the 1st reading and responsibility for the Street Acceptance procedure as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Plasko. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler Yes. The motion carried 4-0.

f. **Water/Sewer Bills – Update and discussion by Benn Sherman, DPW**

Mr. Sherman presented a video regarding water/sewer bills and the explanation for each section on the invoice and how to read the bill. He also displayed where the video can be found on the Town's Website. The Board asked questions and Mr. Sherman provided answers to all their questions. He also added that if a resident should have any questions regarding the water/sewer bill should contact the Public Works Department.

g. **Request for Winter Maintenance Services**

- Rifleman Way & Brady Court
- Tucker Hill Estates

The Developer for both properties was present to discuss this request, the Streets in these developments have not been accepted. The Board discussed and asked questions of Mr. Sherman and Mr. Smith. The Board agreed to move this item to the next Board of Selectmen Meeting scheduled for Monday, December 21, 2020. Mr. Sherman will research the history of any forms used prior with the Town Manager's Office.

h. **Thompson Auto Sales, Class II License – 504 Quaker Highway**

The Board had questions of Mr. Thompson and his business on Quaker Highway due to an anonymous complaint that cars were being sold out of Mr. Thompson's home. Mr. Thompson answered the Board's questions on how cars are stored and sold at the Quaker Highway location and how COVID has affected the business buying cars at Auction. Due to COVID, Mr. Thomson explained he had parked some cars in his yard that were awaiting service and then returned to Uxbridge. The Board discussed the affects of COVID on all businesses and were satisfied with Mr. Thompson's explanation. The Board wished the Thompson's success as with all businesses in the Town.

i. Approve 2021 Board of Selectmen Licenses

Alcohol
Auto Amusement
Entertainment
Common Victualler
Class I-III
Precious Metals
Inn Holders

Mr. Butler explained the motion to approve will be done in 'bulk' for the License approvals for 2021. The Board will approve the Licenses as per the tables submitted to the Board and the Licenses will not be released until all paperwork is submitted and any payments/taxes due to the Town are made. Licenses that are not renewed would be required to start the License process over again to request a License.

MOTION: MR. Mandile approve the table under chapter 4 section I

Mr. Plasko Seconded. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion carried 4-0.

5. TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

Signed boards and message boards announcing town meeting on 12/15/20 outdoors at McCloskey School Field. Dig Safe contacted for tent installation. Gym Doors will be open for restrooms. Online Building Permits went 'Live' today for Uxbridge. All requirements must be satisfied before permits are issued. Mr. Sette explained it is a more streamlined process. Inspectors have tablets for pictures, etc. for sign off quicker and information can be downloaded into the permit. The system is also linked into the Patriot system in the Assessor's office. The Board of Health and Conservation permits will be online as the system is continued to be built. Alcohol, dog licenses, etc. will eventually be added and a Kiosk located in town hall is also being considered to apply for a permit in future.

Mr. Sette announced the work at the COA Parking Lot was completed. Mr. Butler congratulated Mr. Sette and Benn Sherman and Company, for the parking lot at the Council on Aging. The COA are very thankful to have it completed.

6. MEMBER ISSUES & COMMENTS

Mr. Plasko stated a resident reached out to him regarding the condition of the roof at the McCloskey school. Mr. Plasko reached out to Mr. Sette and all are aware of the urgent need to repair quickly.

Mr. Butler received request for putting lights on at the skate park and asked Mr. Sette to look into providing lighting up to 7:30-8:00 pm at the skate park and to consider adding a timer to control the lights. Thanks to all who take care of the park for the Town.

7. MEETING MINUTES

- Meeting minutes of the Board of Selectmen December 7, 2020.
- Meeting minutes of the Board of Selectmen December 9, 2020.

MOTION: Mr. Plasko approved the meeting minutes as presented. Motion seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES, Mandile YES, Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion carried 4-0.

8. ADJOURNMENT


MOTION: Mr. Shaw motioned to adjourn the meeting. Motion seconded by Mr. Plasko
Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion carried 4-0.

Next Regular Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2020 at 6:30 p.m.


Next Board of Selectmen meeting scheduled for Wednesday, December 9, 2020 at 6:30 p.m. for Town Meeting Quorum discussion and vote.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Tipping.

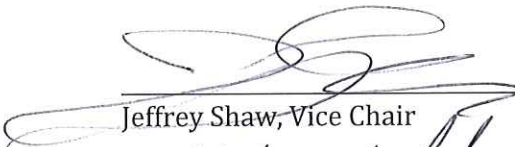
December 7, 2020 minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen:



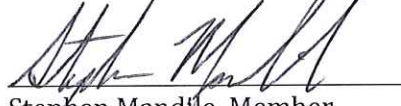
Brian Butler, Chair



Brian Plasko, Clerk



Jeffrey Shaw, Vice Chair



Stephen Mandile, Member

12/28/2020

Date