



**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING ROOM
21 S. MAIN STREET, UXBRIDGE, MA
MONDAY, MARCH 14, 2022 6:30 P.M.**

RECEIVED TOWN CLERK
2022 APR 4 PM 5:07

This meeting was held in-person & via Zoom.

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

Also Present: Town Manager Steve Sette, Admin. Assistant Alexandra Clauss

Not Present: Chairman Brian Butler

1) CALL TO ORDER – Shaw called the meeting to order at 6:35 PM. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Volunteers needed: Cable Advisory Committee and Historic Cemetery Committee; Anyone interested, please fill out a talent bank form to submit online or to the Town Manager's Office. A 10-day posting is required before a member can be appointed to a Board or Committee.
- b) Uxcellent News:
 - i. Mandile regarding:
 - (1) March 15-17: STEM Event at Whitin School from 6-7 PM
 - (2) March 18: Cinderella Play in Whitinsville at the High school
 - (3) April 10: Uxbridge Senior Connection hosting the Rise Up Initiative: Senior Center Easter Dinner with option of Delivery
 - (4) Sunday, May 29: Memorial Day Parade – tentative 9 AM start time
 - ii. Wise regarding:
 - (1) Virginia Blanchard Memorial Scholarship: \$1,000-\$3,000 awarded to any Uxbridge resident that is a graduating senior (does *not* have to be in Uxbridge School District)
 - (2) Uxbridge High School Scholarship: \$1,000 to five (5) Uxbridge High School graduating seniors
 - (3) Uxbridge Town Scholarship Fund: \$1,000 awarded to any Uxbridge resident that is a graduating senior (does *not* have to be in Uxbridge School District)
 - (4) All applications to be submitted by April 28, 2022; please see the Uxbridge Town website for further information

3) CITIZENS' FORUM – no one wished to speak

4) BUSINESS

- a) Public Hearing: Pole Hearing – 44 Hollis Street

The applicant, NGRID (National Grid,) is looking for approval to place a new pole for a new home to be constructed at this location. National Grid representative, Mike Frasier, present to give background explanation, review pole placement on map, and answer questions of the Board. After brief discussion, the only recommendation from the Board was that the pole be placed as far back from egress/ right of way as humanly possible.

MOTION: Mandile **SECOND:** Wise

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen approve the request for a new pole to be located at 44 Hollis Street. All in favor. The motion carried 4-0-0. DeMers-AYE, Wise-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Shaw-AYE

- b) License Hearing: Karcraft of Uxbridge LLC, 709 Quaker Hwy

Karcraft of Uxbridge LLC, at 709 Quaker Hwy, has been illegally operating without a license for the past 2 years; there is also a question of whether a junk car operation is being conducted. Building Official Larry Lench was notified to conduct a site observation. Town Counsel, Jay Talerman, was present to answer questions and help clarify next steps for the Board; Talerman further clarified the obligation of said owner to his customers via the Lemon Law. The following was suggested as next steps: further in-depth inspection of the premise and books and a formal letter to cease and desist the selling of used cars, to be sent as notification to the business owner of the meeting held on his behalf, as well as next steps, since he did not show up to the meeting. If the owner refuses a premise search and review of books, an injunction of some kind will need to be filed for. With the time lapse in this License, brief discussion ensued on the process of tracking licenses in hopes of establishing a better system to use in the future and prevent a reoccurrence of a situation like this. (Example: December to submit all renewals with checks and balances to occur in January.)

c) Warrant for Annual Town Election May 24, 2022: sign

The Town Clerk, Kelly Cote, prepared the Warrant and needs the Board of Selectmen's signature. After review of the Warrant provided, the Board voted in favor of and signed said Warrant. Brief discussion ensued on the language used in the document, with suggestion to search surrounding towns in order to adopt language more suitable for all audience reading and comprehension.

MOTION: Wise

SECOND: DeMers

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen sign the Annual Town Election Warrant as requested by the Town Clerk for the May 24, 2022 election. All in favor. The motion carried 4-0-0.

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

d) Donations: Uxbridge Town Scholarship: \$1,000-Dave Freeley

The Uxbridge Town Scholarship Committee has received a generous donation from Mr. David Freeley of \$1000.00. He is interested in making this a recurrent donation and as such, the Town created an account for acceptance and distribution of this and any future donations made. Board member Wise provided more information and clarification of the donation, with a suggestion to make a posting on the Town website to welcome anyone else wanting to donate.

MOTION: Wise

SECOND: Mandile

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen accept the donation of \$1000.00 from Mr. David Freeley, on behalf of the Uxbridge Town Scholarship. All in favor. The motion carried 4-0-0.

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

e) BOS April Meeting: Tuesday, April 26th move to Monday, April 25th

The Board of Selectmen Meeting was posted as being Tuesday, April 26th due to confusion of when the Patriot's Day Holiday was to be celebrated; Patriot's Day is celebrated on April 18th so there is no conflict with the regular Board of Selectmen Monday meeting day. However, discussion ensued and the Board decided to make no motion and will still hold their meeting on Tuesday, April 26th.

- f) Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant – Tuesday, May 10, 2022: Review, vote to place articles on warrant, and sign.

The Warrant for the Spring Annual Town Meeting has closed and the Board needs to review and sign for posting by the Town Constable. Town Manager Sette provided the Board with background information and further discussion ensued between the Board and Attorney, Jay Talerman. Talerman clarified the following: the Board of Selectmen are unable to change any Citizen's Petitions, and although the Board is to decide what gets put on the ballot – they're only able to refuse any outright illegal petitions; further clarified, Talerman is able to assist in the parliamentary side of these petitions, however, cannot assist in any changes of the content within.

MOTION: Mandile

SECOND: Wise

VOTE: that the Board of Selectmen sign the May 10, 2022, Spring Town Meeting Warrant and that it be posted. All in favor. The motion carried 4-0-0.

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

- g) Continuation: Blackstone Watershed Collaborative

After the previous presentation by the Watershed Program Manager, Stefanie Covino, the Board decided to hold their vote until further discussion and presentation to the other affected Departments and Boards. Brief discussion ensued and the following was mentioned: Dr. David Tapscott, Board of Health Chair, contacted the other affected Boards; Dr. Joann Lindenmayer, Board of Health Vice Chair and head of MVP grant management, has spoken with Covino on this collaboration. No motion was made as this business item will be tabled until further developments transpire.

- h) Continuation: MassDevelopment: PACE

After previous presentation of the PACE program by representatives Rob Anderson and Rob Dolan of MassDevelopment, further deliberation was needed between the program representatives and the Treasurer/ Collector. Notification of this request was sent to MassDevelopment; however, there was no response returned. After reviewing the Municipal Assessment and Assignment Agreement, both the Treasurer/ Collector and Town Manager have respectfully suggested that the Board of Selectmen take no action until further in-depth study and discussion of this program and Agreement can occur. Consensus among the Board proved that there would be better approval of the program if it included Municipal Buildings, as this would create many potential benefits in Uxbridge. Discussion ensued on the difficulty of upgrading older buildings to be energy efficient, Stanley Woolen Mill for example. Board Member DeMers reiterated this program being a tool and emphasized the question of: what happens if/when someone defaults and will Uxbridge be held accountable? Further, DeMers mentioned it may be beneficial to engage with the property owners in Uxbridge to see if this program is something they would be interested in participating in.

5) TOWN MANAGER UPDATE

- a) New Conservation Agent Started: Emily Petro; meet and greet to occur with Petro and all new employees soon
- b) Budget Letter drafted: budget will reflect a 7% increase from last year after a Classification and Compensation study was performed for market competitiveness and establishing a Human Resources and Recreation Department; the aforementioned benefits will help support Uxbridge Town Hall as it grows – as well as Uxbridge as a whole!

- c) Capital Planning Project Approval: Fire, Police, Council on Aging and Library; also coming up: Feasibility Study to assess a second egress at Uxbridge High School
- d) Finance Committee Public Hearings: Wednesday, April 6, Thursday, April 7, Tuesday, April 12, Wednesday, April 13, and Thursday, April 14.

6) MEMBER ISSUES & COMMENTS

- a) Shaw regarding: the Board of Selectmen reviewing all their Policies and updating them accordingly. Specifically, Uxbridge Veterans Tax Work-Off Program Policy in which any Honorably Discharged Veteran can work to pay off up to \$1,000 from their tax bill. Last reviewed in 2013 when minimum wage was \$8; this needs to be reviewed to bring the Policy up to date.
- b) DeMers regarding: introduction of a Recreation Department to support the residents and children living or visiting Uxbridge – benefits to include learning and social development.
- c) Mandile regarding: the Recreation Department providing for food insecurities over the Summer when kids are not in school; and, inquired about the Affordable Housing in Town and what percentage of housing stock should be dedicated to such (ten percent, 10%).

7) MEETING MINUTES

February 14, 2022 Minutes

MOTION: DeMers **SECOND:** Mandile

VOTE: to accept the Meeting Minutes of Monday, February 28, 2022. All in favor. The motion carried 4-0-0. DeMers-AYE, Wise-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Shaw-AYE

8) ADJOURNMENT: NEXT REGULAR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: **MARCH 28, 2022.**

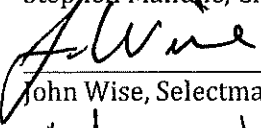
MOTION: Mandile **SECOND:** Wise

VOTE: to adjourn this March 14, 2022 meeting at 8:08 PM. All in favor. The motion carried 4-0-0. DeMers-AYE, Wise-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Shaw-AYE

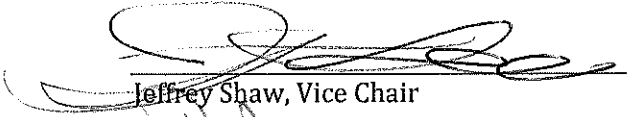
Minutes respectfully submitted by Alexandra Clauss
March 14, 2022 minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen:

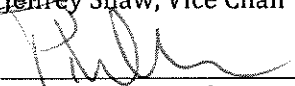
Brian Butler, Chair

Stephen Mandile, Clerk


John Wise, Selectman

Date


Jeffrey Shaw, Vice Chair


Peter DeMers, Selectman

March 28, 2022.

List of Documents and Other Exhibits Used:

Agenda Notes

44 Hollis Street Pole Hearing Packet

Karcraft License Hearing Packet

Warrant for Annual Town Election May 24, 2022

Email Correspondence: Dave Freeley - Uxbridge Town Scholarship Donation

BOS April Meeting Proposed Change Sheet

Spring Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Blackstone Watershed Collaborative Discussion Sheet

MassDevelopment: PACE Packet

Minutes Dated February 28, 2022; with Vote of the Board of Selectmen Attachment