

**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
LOWER TOWN HALL – 21 S. MAIN STREET, UXBRIDGE
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021 6:30 P.M.**

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK
2021 AUG 11 AM 10:53

This meeting was held in-person & via Zoom.

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

Not Present: Town Manager Steve Sette

Also Present: Admin. Assistants Ellen Welch and Alex Clauss

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

2) ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Moment of Silence: In Memory of long-time resident Joe Gniadek who succumbed to sarcoma this past weekend. Joe had tremendous spirit day-to-day, was such a positive thinker – able to see someone's needs and help them get to the next level, much like a motivational coach. A former boxer, coach of softball, and basketball – Joe gave his all to Uxbridge & Uxbridge Youth as a whole. Joe will be greatly missed! Funeral Arrangements: Mon. July 19, Mass at 11 am in St. Mary's Church. Burial will follow in St. Mary's Cemetery. Calling hours at Tancrell-Jackman Funeral Home – Sun. July 18 from 4-7 PM.

- Memorial donations in his memory may be made to his family to help alleviate funeral expenses: <http://www.gofundme.com/f/funeral-expenses-for-joe-gniadek>.
- To leave a condolence message for his family please visit <http://www.jackmanfuneralhomes.com>
- To plant trees in memory, please visit <https://sympathy.legacy.com/en-us/funeral-flowers/productdetails/?type=obituary&p=199446723&pn=joseph-gniadek&affiliateId=1732&v=01&sku=tre-tim&pm=240>

a) Volunteers needed: Historic Cemetery Committee, Cultural Council – consult Town Manager, Town Clerk, or as always – Talent Bank Form is located on our website.

b) Uxcellent News – update from Mandile:

1. Uxbridge Baseball Association – 2021 Ripken 8 and under State Tournament – UBA arranged in under two weeks – with three other scheduled tournaments all canceled due to Tropical Storm Elsa. Sunrise, Saturday AM: dedicated people of the UBA and volunteers had sump pumps draining water from fields to get them ready. Five teams came from all around the state; we want to thank all the players, coaches, families, umpires, volunteers, and fans that came out to watch & cheer them on. We congratulate the Tournament Champs of Middlesex and their runner-up, our very own Uxbridge team.
2. Uxbridge Skate Park hosted the *All I Need is Summer Jam 2021* – thanks to the dedication and commitment of Bug Ranslow and Robbie Harper who constructed the park and do a great job operating it. Also, a thank you to all the sponsors and volunteers that made this a successful event!

3) CITIZENS' FORUM – No one wished to speak

4) BUSINESS

a) VectorScape Mosquito Control Program Presentation (Board of Health)

Erin Hightower, Health Director and Dr. David Tapscott, Board of Health Chair present.

Jane Mukherjee of VectorScape present with an update on progress made. Testing for two disease entities – EEE and West Nile. Identified a few spots throughout Town for testing and trapping of EEE virus; yielded no

positives in first round of in-house testing. Outside lab testing to be completed and back to us by the end of the week. Friday: testing; Saturday: trap pick up; over the weekend: identify and enumerate.

DeMers asked for clarification on the type of mosquito and if we have thousands as opposed to five.

Mukherjee stated there are probably hundreds of types in Uxbridge, speciated by group (enophiles, ayers, coolac) as well as individual species within those groups. Hard to enumerate as not all affect humans – some affect fish, amphibians, mice, rabbits, etc. Mukherjee & co. trapping in areas more likely to house the types that affect humans, or to be vectors of these arboviral diseases. Found roughly about 15-20 different types of mosquito caught in our traps – of those that carry EEE and West Nile, about 5-6 types known to be potential carriers. Some will bite birds (not humans) so there won't be direct transmission but, they're ones that could bite a bird and transfer the disease to another mosquito that does bite humans.

DeMers asked about requirements for the best trapping sites.

Mukherjee mentioned limitations are primarily to Town sites for ease, with the possibility to utilize residential sites. One test type requires standing water, no more than six to eight inches deep – marshlands are good for this. Other trap is more flexible, requiring wooded areas that are cool and shaded with water somewhere nearby.

Educational Aspect - Available to provide educational opportunities up to and including mosquito habitat, what we can do in our yards to reduce populations, and more details about trapping and IDing. Education dependent on audience but, examples include: mailings to horse owners, wet labs for Boy Scouts, Zoom and in person experiences. Mukherjee open to all suggestions on what more to include! Wise recommended posting the educational opportunities to the Town website and bulletin board!

There was confusion among the Board on the MVP 2 grant – BOS asked for clarification to confirm cost, in-kind hours, etc. VectorScape mosquito testing is already fully covered and at no cost to the Town.

- b) Trash Recycling Presentation (Board of Health) – *Tabled to future meeting date, TBD/TBA*
- c) FY22 Construction Season Update (DPW/Benn Sherman)

Sherman updated the Board of Selectmen with a detailed list on completed and on-going construction projects, to include expected project completion dates.

Butler inquired about the Culvert Replacement Projects and why it was taking so long to come to a final decision on this since the original start date was around 2011. Asked if deterioration from length of project time contributed to the cost and if culverts should be looked at and repaired earlier to avoid this. Sherman commented that project's length of time has more to do with funding than decision making.

Butler congratulated Sherman on his efforts for application approval for the Granite Street Sidewalk Improvement and asked how much funding is available and if any money could go towards road replacement. Sherman stated the cap for the application is \$400,000 per community.

DeMers asked about the Hecla Street Bridge – noted many individuals were inquiring about this. Sherman elevated this item on the list of things needing to be done as deterioration is progressing – Sherman is waiting for the report on the bridge and its current condition before being able to move forward.

Mandile asked if there was any resolution on relocating the traffic signal in front of the memorial pole (122 and Hartford Ave). Sherman said no pole movement but, there are developments in that arena; Sherman will reach out to confirm and correspond back to the Board of Selectmen. Congressional Medal of Honor Award recipient has been confirmed and location of statue in Uxbridge has been mapped out.

DeMers proposed ways to better improve project management in Town (all departments, DPW being a great example) – simple presentation to include scope, project manager, funding source, milestones, etc. DeMers

questioned when the Meter Replacement Program charges would be removed from the bill; Sherman stated they wouldn't because they're integral to the rate (it's a base charge, nothing to do with the meter replacement program) and referenced the October 2018 Water & Sewer Rate Analysis presentation for clarity. Descriptor will be changed in the next billing cycle – this should help remediate any confusion.

Wise thanked and congratulated Sherman on clarification of the Base Water Meter Charge to the Board and the Town; asked for Sherman to expand briefly upon the advanced meter and software technology the new meters use – like leak detection, a great benefit to rate payers. Sherman briefly explained the following about the new meters: fixed network; reads every 15 minutes (96 reads per day); color code usage (intermittent, continuous, high, vs. no usage); app in progress for rate payers to view this same data and usage, etc.

d) Discussion and Vote: Debt Refunding Authorization

Treasurer Collector, Lisa Troast is with the Board of Selectmen to ask for a vote to refund certain debt that the Town has. Troast answered questions from the Board of Selectmen in order to clarify confusion. Ratio of savings to principle has to be greater than 3% or it's not worth it – we're at 7.422% currently. Full details of itemized closing costs required in order to make decision; decision needed by end of July; 8.26 deadline.

No vote made – discussion tabled until July 26th meeting in order to obtain necessary clarification.

e) Discussion and Vote: Construction of Road Agreement License – Eber Taft/Uxbridge Woods Subdivision

Developer, Matt Kennedy (81 Eber Taft Road) present to request a road agreement license in order to open Eber Taft Road for construction of homes in the area. Kennedy has the approval of the Planning Board; Shaw had questions in regards to Conservation – clarified that front of lots and areas of construction are set far in front of any conservation wetlands (260 feet). No objections from Sherman of DPW. Houses will be built after the finished roadway with drainage in place (low impact). Kennedy stated he obtained a \$5 million umbrella, as well as pollution insurance.

MOTION: Shaw **SECOND:** Mandile

VOTE: Unanimous roll call to grant the road agreement license request to Matt Kennedy for activity on Eber Taft Rd/Uxbridge Woods.

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

f) Discussion and Vote: Conservation Committee Gifted Land from Campanelli, LLC: Douglas Street, 2.44 acres - Deed Review and Signature

Shaw gave a brief synopsis on the parcel of land – out of the 2.44 acres, about 2.3 acres of that is wetlands with no real buildable area to it; contributes to inventory of Open Space Uxbridge currently has; pristine piece of land with no left behind trash, pollution, car parts, etc.

MOTION: Wise **SECOND:** Mandile

VOTE: Unanimous roll call to accept the deed and gift land from Campanelli to the Conservation Committee.

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

g) Discussion and Vote: Poll Worker Appointments

DeMers spoke with Town Clerk, Kelly Cote, about the poll worker appointments; Cote expressed her gratitude for the high number of candidates, is very confident in everyone on the appointment list, and noted her method of pairing the newest candidates with the most experienced.

MOTION: Mandile **SECOND:** Wise

VOTE: Unanimous roll call to appoint the poll workers as listed by the Town Clerk as poll workers for the upcoming FY22 elections for a term to expire July 31, 2022.

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

5) TOWN MANAGER UPDATE – Mr. Sette not in attendance; no TM update

6) MEMBER ISSUES & COMMENTS

Wise noted the following and mentioned Uxbridge being a great town with a lot going on to be proud of!

1. 14th Annual Thunder in the Valley – Bike ride left from the VFW to benefit the Adam Bullen Memorial Foundation – an organization dedicated to helping patients and families battling cancer – and in Honor of Uxbridge Police Officer Chester W. “Chet” Dzivasen.
2. Uxbridge Dog Park, 1st Year Anniversary – Two dog parks: one large dog, one small dog (30 lbs. and under); to include pavilions, fountains, open spaces, and hardworking volunteers! *No Uxbridge tax dollars went into the creation of this park.
3. Netflix presence in Uxbridge for videoing of new movie/show

DeMers proposed the following:

1. Establish Town Manager’s Goals and Objectives, FY22
2. Correspondence: Mike Potaski – Letter from the weekly Board read file with about a dozen questions; Sherman and Sette to discuss and get back to the Board to update Potaski.

Shaw proposed having specified Water & Sewer meetings (with Sherman) at new Water Sewer Treatment Plant.

7) MEETING MINUTES

May 27, 2021 & June 28, 2021

No vote; discussion pursued on edits for the listed minutes – vote to be made next meeting.

June 14, 2021

MOTION: DeMers **SECOND:** Shaw

VOTE: 4-0-1 by roll call to approve the June 14, 2021 minutes as amended.

DeMers-AYE, Wise-AYE, Mandile-AYE, Shaw-AYE, Butler-ABSTAIN

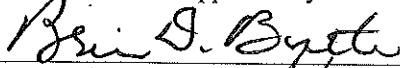
8) ADJOURNMENT: NEXT REGULAR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: **MONDAY, JULY 26, 2021**

MOTION: Mandile **SECOND:** Shaw

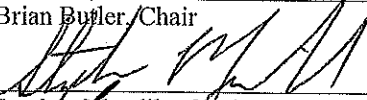
VOTE: Unanimous roll call vote to adjourn this July 12, 2021 meeting at 8:58 PM.

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

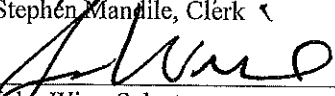
Minutes respectfully submitted by Alexandra Clauss
July 12, 2021 minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen:



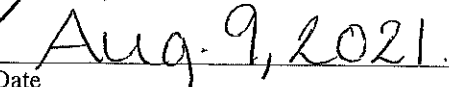
Brian Butler, Chair




Stephen Mandile, Clerk



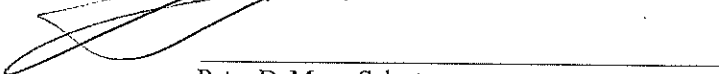
John Wise, Selectman



Date



Jeffrey Shaw, Vice Chair



Peter DeMers, Selectman