



**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
21 S. MAIN STREET, UXBRIDGE, MA
THURSDAY, MAY 27, 2021 5:30 P.M.**

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK
2021 AUG 19 AM 11:15

This meeting was held via Zoom.

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

Also present: Town Manager Steven Sette, Administrative Assistant Ellen Welch (Departed at 6 PM)

1) CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 PM by Mr. Butler. Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

2) BUSINESS

a) **PUBLIC HEARING:** Emergency Aerial Mosquito Spraying Opt-Out discussion and vote

MOTION: Mr. Shaw move that the Board of Selectmen Open the Public Hearing regarding the Emergency Aerial Mosquito Spraying opt-out. Seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: DeMers YES, Wise YES, Mandile YES, Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion carries 5-0-0.

Public hearing is now open. The following residents/board members/committee members spoke:

Dr. Tapscott – Against aerial spraying, mentioning PFAS as a consequence; emphasizes the importance of PPE and public health education.

Mr. Sette – If and since we are opting-out, we must submit a new plan – Could we aerial spray in more prevalent areas with the extra funds from the grant? If a source is identified and after opting out of aerial spraying, what can be done to remediate?

Dr. Lindenmayer – Mentioned the modification to the MVP2 contract was already extended to October 15th because of no response to bid. Her concern is that PFAS enter our water, accumulate in humans, and pose a risk to health. Though aerial spraying makes an impact on decreasing numbers of mosquitos, without more evidence – we cannot state that aerial spraying has a positive impact on human health. She mentions Erin Hightower's comment of the amended contract which ended on June 30, 2021 to be ~\$52,000 for FY '21 and \$31,615 for FY '22.

Mr. Shaw – Commented that PFAS are not water-soluble – entering our water via other routes, not only aerial spraying (for example, via the fire retardants we use to put out and slow fires).

Mr. Wise – We don't know what the new product is, or if it contains PFAS – why focus on PFAS if we've discontinued use of this ingredient?

Mr. DeMers – Highlighted the ineffectiveness of aerial spraying on breaking reproductive cycle of mosquitos and mosquito control, and the need for PPE regardless of aerial spraying.

Pat Hannon – PFAS in soil at community garden have yet to cause any issues and, he mentioned last year's discussion when Benn Sherman mentioned how PFAS are already in our drinking water.

Guy D. – 38% of Worcester County is not a negligible number from a statistical viewpoint and asks the Board to turn down the request and do not opt out of aerial spraying – at least if things get bad, we have an avenue to turn to.

Dave Lewcon – Beekeeper (200 hives, Worcester & Norfolk County) – In support of opting out of aerial spraying; though it can help kill current adult mosquitos, effectiveness decreases with each spray – needing more of, or a new solution to spray effectively. “Board of Health approach is very progressive.”

MOTION: Mr. Shaw move that the Board of Selectmen Close the Public Hearing regarding the Emergency Aerial Mosquito Spraying opt-out. Seconded by Mr. Wise. Roll Call Vote: DeMers YES, Wise YES, Mandile YES, Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion carries 5-0-0.

Public hearing is now closed.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw made a motion that the Town do not opt out of the emergency aerial mosquito spraying program put on by the state (in the event there’s a critical need). Seconded by Mr. Wise. Roll Call Vote: Shaw YES, Wise YES, Mandile NO, DeMers NO, Butler YES. The motion carries 3-2-0.

b) Board of Selectmen Reorganization

The Board annually reorganizes itself following the Town Election, the election was held on May 25th and the results have been certified as official; Mr. Sette will now call for a motion for nominees to be placed for consideration as Board of Selectmen Chair for the next year.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw nominates Brian Butler as Chair of the Uxbridge Select Board, to serve until the next election in 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wise. Roll Call Vote: DeMers YES, Mandile YES, Wise YES, Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion carries 5-0-0.

The newly appointed Chair will now ask for a motion for the Vice Chair for the Uxbridge Selectboard.

MOTION: Mr. Wise nominates Jeffrey Shaw as Vice Chair of the Uxbridge Select Board, to serve until the next election in 2022. Seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote DeMers YES, Mandile YES, Wise YES, Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion carries 5-0-0.

The Chair will now ask for nominees for the Secretary of the Uxbridge Selectboard.

MOTION: Mr. Shaw nominates Stephen Mandile as Secretary of the Uxbridge Select Board, to serve until the next election in 2022. Seconded by Mr. Wise. Roll Call Vote: DeMers YES, Mandile YES, Wise YES, Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion carries 5-0-0.

3) ADJOURNMENT: NEXT REGULAR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: Monday, June 14, 2021

MOTION: Mr. Shaw move that the Board of Selectmen adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: DeMers YES, Mandile YES, Wise YES, Shaw YES, Butler YES. Motion carries 5-0-0.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Alexandra Clauss
May 27, 2021 minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen:



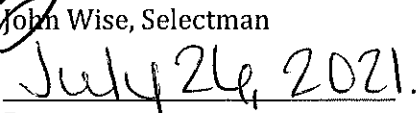
Brian Butler, Chair



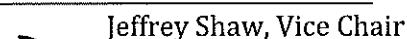
Stephen Mandile, Clerk

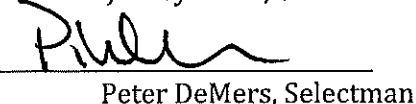


John Wise, Selectman



Date


Jeffrey Shaw, Vice Chair


Peter DeMers, Selectman