



**TOWN OF UXBRIDGE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING AGENDA  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING VIA ZOOM  
21 S. MAIN STREET, UXBRIDGE, MA  
MONDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2021 6:30 P.M.**

REC'D UXB TOWN CLERK  
2021 MAR 31 AM 8:21

**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, Benn Sherman, Director of Public Works, Lisa Troast, Uxbridge Treasurer/Collector, Ellen Mayo, Tax Collector Administrative Assistant, Michelle Laramee, Uxbridge Accountant, Thomas Dion, Uxbridge Fire Chief, Steven Tancrell, Deputy Chief Uxbridge Fire Department, Kevin Powers, Johnson Farm, LLC, Peterson Pereira, Owner of Wild Fifty Sevens, Inc., Robert Contursi, Blackstone Greenway; Robert Dandrade, Blackstone Greenway, Senator Richard Moore; Uxbridge TV and Kathy Tipping, Administrative Assistant.

**Join Zoom Meeting:**

**<https://uxbridge.zoom.us/j/96333246404?pwd=ZFBPZmNod3FFNEpkVCtTdUNFVkRwZz09>**

Meeting ID: 963 332 46404. Passcode: 319265. By phone, dial: 646-558-8656, Meeting ID: 963 332 4604. Passcode: 319265. Participants will be allowed to send a comment or question to the Chair via the chat function.

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 will be conducted live via remote participation to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided 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](http://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>.

**1) CALL TO ORDER**

Mr. Butler called the Board of Selectmen meeting to order at 6:30 pm and a Pledge of Allegiance to the flag was recited.

**2) ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**a) Volunteers needed: Highlight: By-Law Review Committee**

Mr. Butler announced that the By-Law Review Committee has an opening available. Mr. Butler read the job description for the By-Law Review position and the importance of it. He also added the Town Clerk's Office and Town Manager's Office have the Talent Bank Forms to apply for a position on a Committee or Board. The Talent Bank Forms are also available at the Town's website.

**b) Uxcellent News**

- Mr. Plasko recognized the Uxbridge Police Department and Fire Department for assisting a long-time resident who was out walking at Serendipity Woods and fell and broke her ankle. Thank you for all your assistance. The woman who fell has had surgery and is recovering.
- Mr. Plasko also recognized and thanked Allison Horrigan who recently celebrated her 12<sup>th</sup> birthday! Allison has been donating to the Uxbridge Food Pantry for the last 7 years and is such a great example to the residents of Uxbridge. Thank you, Allison, and HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

### 3) CITIZENS' FORUM

There were no questions or comments for the Board in Citizen's Forum.

### 4) BUSINESS

#### a) Blackstone Heritage Corridor (Continued)

At the previous meeting, Bob Contursi, a local resident and others from the Blackstone Heritage Corridor (BHC) made a presentation regarding the Blackstone River Greenway Bike Path project and to enlist the Board of Selectmen's support for a Spring Town Meeting Warrant Article. The Board asked the Town Manager to enlist Town Counsel in preparing an article for the Board of Selectmen to consider for the meeting Warrant.

Mr. Sette gave a brief overview of the previous meeting and described the draft sample articles in front of the Board this evening. Town Counsel, Jay Talerman was in attendance and read through the proposed article and described the structure of the authorization. The remaining will be negotiation of terms and various side agreements, such as maintenance, repair situations, liability, etc. after getting approval from town meeting to convey it. Mr. Butler stated he needed town counsel for the specificity of the easements and to define the pathway itself. Mr. Talerman negotiated with Benn Sherman to be more specific as to the overlay. Article is general by nature and specific pieces will be filled in going forward. Mr. Butler read the proposed Article.

Mr. Butler asked for any questions or comments. Mr. Shaw agreed conceptually, but would need details. Mr. Shaw stated he would like a motion to accept the Article in concept, but later when the details are filled in (lots, geography, etc.) that that information be forwarded to Town Meeting specifically. Mr. Talerman stated that the blanks will be filled in – for town meeting and a proposed sample easement could be used – it is after Town Meeting that he would like to protect and continue to negotiate terms. Mr. Shaw added it did not have to be specific for Town Meeting, but would need details with regard to property owners, etc. and it would be no problem approving it to be put on an Article on Town Meeting based on written proposal w/details to be filled in for Town Meeting. Mr. Mandile approved of what Mr. Shaw stated. Mr. Plasko agreed with the other Board of Selectmen members. Mr. Contursi thanked the Board for taking time for allowing them to go forward and he understands the blanks need filling in, parcel #'s etc.) Public and Private easements-understood it is their responsibility to get approval of those easements. Mr. Contursi will also work with Mr. Sherman to fill in the blanks. Senator Moore also thanked the Board, the Town Manager, and Town Council and that it is a good cooperative partnership with the Town of Uxbridge and now it can move forward and finalize with a successful Town Meeting. Mr. Sette stated he is more than willing to work with all the parties to get the right motion in place to move forward.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mandile motioned that the Board of Selectmen approve the request by Mr. Contursi that the Board of Selectmen support the Warrant Article at the Spring Annual Town Meeting regarding current Town owned sewer proposed easements to allow for the construction of the Blackstone River Greenway Pike Path over Town Land, as suggested by Town Council. Second Mr. Shaw. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion carried 4-0.

#### b) PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED): License for Storage of Flammable and Combustible Liquids, Flammable Solids or Flammable Gases: Applicant Johnson Farm LLC, 619 Quaker Highway

**MOTION:** Mr. Shaw motioned to re-open the Public Hearing for a License for Storage of Flammable and Combustible Liquids, Flammable Solids or Flammable Gases for Applicant Johnson Farm, LLC, 619 Quaker Highway. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

**The Public Hearing was re-opened.**

Mr. Butler asked what the Fire Department findings were after a visit to the site. Deputy Chief Tancrell received report from Uxbridge PD and Chief Dion – a propane trailer parked on site. Police ordered it removed from public way. Parked at 619 – there was no license and no permit from Fire Department. It was not on site when went there. Vehicles were not supposed to be inside the building and bollards put in as compliance. There was a vehicle was parked inside and bollards had been removed. Spoke to owner, he admitted there was a vehicle in the building, denied truck was parked. Visited later bollards back in place. Reported findings to Board and Fire Chief at that time. Mr. Powers claimed the truck was being used for transfer – change of driver and that's when Police saw the propane trailer. Mr. Powers stated there was a vehicle was inside. Mr. Power claims he has an occupancy permit and it does not say a vehicle cannot be inside. He cannot do vehicle maintenance. Chief Dion – bollards were put in place so no vehicles could be put in building. Made to be removed – should not be any vehicle inside the building unless occupancy changes. There have been difficulties with proper permitting on the property. Mr. Powers asking for permit to store trailers on the outside. Bollards are back in place. Has not applied for usage change with town bldg. inspector, submitted application and in review at present time. Mr. Sette was not aware of the change of usage permit – will check with Building Inspector first thing in the AM. Mr. Powers stated he has done everything that was asked and he was awaiting the Building Inspector's response. Mr. Butler asked if there any concerns for permit for flammables? Chief Dion did not see any concerns – once license completed, Mr. Powers will still need to get a permit from the Fire Department – within that process, the Fire Department will ensure all permits and safety measures are in place before any permits are issued. Deputy Chief Tancrell stated once a license is issued, it does not end the compliance. i.e. solid ground for trucks to be parked, etc. will still be reviewed. Concrete surface (assume tank is full) – not what is currently there as grated dirt. Will required solid surface, of what's there now – concrete or asphalt for trailer. Deputy Tancrell is confident that will get done. Mr. Powers questioned other companies parking tankers on gravel in Uxbridge and asked why the Board was requiring him to put a concrete or asphalt pad down. Chief Dion stated he could not speak to the other companies as he is not familiar with that. The Fire Department will assume the trailers are full and want them as safe as possible, with no risks. Mr. Powers stated other companies are parking on gravel. Mr. Butler stated they will look into that and will require similar requirements going forward if that is the case. Mr. Shaw asked how many licenses to install flammables to Mr. Sette as he doesn't see annual renewal of flammable licenses come to the Board every year. Deputy Chief Tancrell stated the license is granted to the land and is registered with the Town Clerks office. It stays in effect as long as it's being used. Mr. Shaw can find out through Town Clerks Office. Mr. Mandile and Mr. Plasko both had no questions for Mr. Powers or the Fire Department. Mr. Butler also reminded Mr. Powers that there will be un-announced inspections on the property.

**MOTION:** Mr. Shaw motioned for the Board of Selectmen to approve the License for the storage of Flammable and Combustible Liquids, Flammable Solids or Flammable Gases to Johnson Farm LLC, 619 Quaker Highway, with the stipulation that a hard landing area be installed and there will be un-announced Inspections. Mr. Shaw also motioned to also close the Public Hearing in this motion. The motion was seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0. The Public Hearing was closed.

Mr. Powers asked Mr. Butler about the landing area and Mr. Butler replied that the Building Inspector would be reviewing that and will work with Mr. Powers on the issue.

Mr. Butler also thanked Chief Dion and staff for all their extra effort and assistance regarding this License Application as it pertains to fire standards.

c) **PUBLIC HEARING (CONTINUED): Request for Class III License Approval for Wild Fifty Sevens, Inc. 870 Quaker Highway.**

**MOTION TO RE-OPEN PUBLIC HEARING:** Mr. Shaw motioned that the Board of Selectmen re-open the Public Hearing for a Request for a Class III License Approval for Wild Fifty Sevens, Inc. 870 Quaker Highway. The motion seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

The Public Hearing was re-opened and continued. Mr. Periera was in attendance to discuss his request. At the last Board of Selectmen meeting, there were a number of vehicles, the status of vehicles and the condition of property were questioned by the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Butler thanked the Fire Department and Mr. Shaw for doing site visits. Mr. Periera has made gains in a positive way, although there is a way to go. Propose a positive outcome on his license application due to his continuing effort. As he understands there is sizeable amount of work to be done on the property, he is willing to work to that end. Mr. Butler suggested the Board continue his Class II license and application for his Class III – as long as continued efforts to take place. Mr. Shaw indicated there was quite a bit of clean up done, and was a big undertaking. To see some forward progress and safety concerns to be addressed was great and Mr. Periera needs to continue on that path. Definitely not like to see any vehicles migrating to other nearby lots. There are quite a few vehicles in such disrepair – parts should be reviewed and the rest be scrapped for junk and removed from property. Don't want to stop the progress and Mr. Shaw would like to continue to work with Mr. Periera to get the property squared away. Chief Dion added the life safety and fire issues were definitely improved and he is comfortable and confident things will get better. Mr. Plasko asked if Town Counsel had any recommendations on how to handle this. Mr. Butler stated they can go forward and add stipulations to the license itself for compliance. Mr. Talerman stated he would like to review final language before the Board of Selectmen's signing. Mr. Talerman could review makes continued efforts to sole satisfaction of the Board of Selectmen and if the Board of Selectmen find such progress unsatisfactory that license may be revoked. Mr. Periera will try his best to get the remaining twelve additional vehicles out. Mr. Shaw suggested a motion to continue the Public Hearing to allow for the continued use and ask for a motion crafted by Town Counsel to be voted on. Mr. Talerman will craft motion and put on the Board of Selectmen's agenda for 3/8/21. Mr. Periera understood the need for his continuing effort. The next Board of Selectmen's meeting is scheduled for 3/8/21.

**Motion:** Mr. Shaw motioned that the Public Hearing be continued in order for Town Council to be able to craft verbiage written by Town Council to approve these licenses subject to the continued action of cleaning up under the discretion of the Board of Selectmen and said language to be crafted by Town Counsel for our vote next meeting. Seconded Mr. Mandile. Roll Plasko Yes, Mandile Yes, Shaw Yes; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

d) **Board of Selectmen Approval of BAN, Uxbridge BAN-Hilltop Securities**

At the Fall Annual Town Meeting, Capital Purchases for the Fire Department and the Department of Public Works, for equipment was approved to be purchased via a BAN (Bond Anticipation Note); the notes were recently sold and need the Board of Selectmen's approval

and signature, to be executed and the purchase made. Treasurer/Collector, Ms. Troast was in attendance to explain this transaction.

Ms. Troast explained that on February 10, 2021, the notes were sold. There were five bidders and Oppenheimer was the winning bid. Oppenheimer came in at 0.3883 percent interest rate. Ms. Troast stated it was a good sale and that they will only pay interest for first 3 years. It will then, most likely, be rolled into a bigger bond borrowing that's how it will be paid for. The first-year premium is \$6,516 and can be used to pay for the cost of issuance and the balance can be used for another capital purpose upon appropriation. The net cost for year one would be \$4,136.85. Ms. Troast stated it was an extremely good deal. Mr. Butler agreed it was a very good sale and that capital purchases are very much needed going forward. Mr. Sette thanked Ms. Troast and all of the financial advisors and financial team for getting this done as it is very important. Mr. Sette added for a company like Oppenheimer to bid, tells us they believe we are in a very good financial condition as well. Mr. Butler added the Town has positioned itself in a better place with a great bond rating. Mr. Butler thanked Ms. Troast and the Town Manager, Mr. Sette, for their research, development and execution.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mandile motioned that the Board of Selectmen approve the execution of the BAN with Hilltop Securities as presented and prepared for signature. Motion seconded by Mr. Plasko. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

**MOTION:** Mr. Plasko also motioned to the Chair, to read and add an additional motion: That the Board of Selectmen adopt the votes provided by Locke Lord as bond counsel to the Town in connection with the approval of the Town's marked 2021 note issues. The Motion was seconded by Mr. Mandile. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

e) **Statewide Public Works Municipal Mutual Aid Agreement**

Mr. Benn Sherman, DPW Director, was in attendance to present the specifics of the Municipal Mutual Aid Agreement. Mutual Aid for Public Works was completed at the state level. The Police and Fire currently have agreements. He stated a vote in favor would allow the Town to adopt Chapter 40, Section 4k of the MGL and that opting into the agreement would allow us to share resources with other communities and transfer costs to another town or obtain services from another town. Mr. Sherman added that a big benefit is the contractual mechanism is to there to recoup costs in the event of an emergency and it is used across the state.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mandile motioned that the Board of Selectmen approve the Statewide Public Works Municipal Mutual Aid Agreement as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Plasko. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw Yes, Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.

f) **Donations:**

The Uxbridge Police Department has received an additional AED from Six-10 AED, an organization that supports AED's for Mass First Responders. They have donated a Zoll AED Plus valued at \$1,500.

**MOTION:** Mr. Mandile motioned that the Board of Selectmen accept the generous donation of a Zoll AED Plus by Six-10 AED, on behalf of the Uxbridge Police Department and the residents of the Town of Uxbridge, with gratitude. Motion seconded by Mr. Plasko. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.



**5) TOWN MANAGER UPDATE**

- Mr. Sette announced the Town Warrant opening as of February 22, 2021 and the closing of the Town Warrant on Friday, March 12, 2021 at 5:00 pm by by-law. Mr. Sette added anyone considering to present a Citizen's Petition to make sure it is in by March 12, 2021. There are a number of articles on there and capital purchases that may be coming. Because of COVID and to not have an indoor Spring Annual Town Meeting, Mr. Sette has looked into an alternate date (as have many other towns). Mr. Sette is considering a date of May 15, 2021 for an outdoor Town Meeting, similar to the one that was done that was done in the Fall. If the Board of Selectmen is interested, the item can be placed on the next Town Meeting agenda and also confirm the Town Moderator. A rain date of May 22, 2021 can also be considered as well.
- Mr. Sette thanked everyone for approving the BAN and Bikeway and is happy for the support.
- Mr. Sette stated the budgets by are due by March 11, 2021, but Departments will be getting the drafts in advance of that date. The Finance Committee is putting a schedule together for public hearings.
- There were no questions for the Town Manager. Mr. Butler requested an update on the Town Audits at the next meeting. Mr. Sette stated Michelle will be on at the next meeting and that we are on track for the audit the end of June this year. An update on the Forensic audit and issues with the Accounting firm hopefully be resolved by next meeting. We refinanced bonds/debt at last spring town meeting - the BAN sold at better interest rate. Mr. Settee added, companies wouldn't take a risk if the town was in poor financial shape. He also added, Michell, Lisa, Ken - are a good financial group and has put the town in a good financial position.

**6) MEMBER ISSUES & COMMENTS**

- Mr. Mandile: The Massachusetts military support foundation worked with Representative Soter and Senator Fattman to have a coat drive (in several locations). They are still accepting applications from veterans for free coats. Visit MMSFL.org. - to receive a new winter coat delivered or pick up. The group teamed up with Job Lot. Mr. Mandile stated please send the information to any veteran you may know. Mr. Butler thanked Mr. Mandile for always keeping up with veteran organizations and for his passion exhibited on behalf of our veterans. Great Job.
- The VFW Post 1385 now has indoor dining. Please support them helping Veterans of Foreign Wars.
- Mr. Shaw stated a great job done by all and the need to keep moving. He also stated the Town Manager has his finger of the pulse of this community monetarily, budgetarily and expansion wise with businesses coming to town. Mr. Butler agreed that progress is being made collectively and that the Town Manager is doing an incredible job.
- Mr. Plasko stated the Board of Selectmen is a great team and a board that works together and mentioned there was one seat open on the Board of Selectmen.

**7) MEETING MINUTES: Monday, February 22, 2021.**

Mr. Butler requested a motion to approve the meeting minutes, as crafted, for the Board of Selectmen Meeting on February 22, 2021.

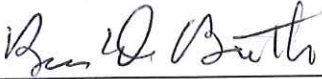
**MOTION: Mr. Mandile motioned to approve the meeting minutes of February 22, 2021, as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shaw. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES, Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.**

**8) ADJOURNMENT:**

**MOTION: Mr. Plasko motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 pm. The motion was seconded by Mr. Shaw. Roll Call Vote: Plasko YES; Mandile YES; Shaw YES; Butler YES. Motion passed 4-0.**


**THE NEXT REGULAR BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING: MONDAY, MARCH 8, 2021**


Minutes respectfully submitted by Kathleen Tipping  
February 22, 2021 minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Butler, Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Brian Plasko, Clerk

3/22/21  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jeffrey Shaw, Vice Chair

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Stephen Mandile, Member