



TOWN OF UXBRIDGE  
**PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE**  
UXBRIDGE, MASSACHUSETTS 01569

Chairman: Marc Montminy, Chief of Police  
Benn S. Sherman, Director DPW  
Frank Tiano, School Superintendent  
Tom Dion, Fire Chief  
Steve Sette, Town Mgr.

## MEETING MINUTES

**MEETING DATE:** September 15, 2020  
**MEETING LOCATION:** Zoom Conference Meeting

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT:**

Marc Montminy	Chief of Police
Steve Sette	Uxbridge Town Manager
Tom Dion	Uxbridge Fire Chief
Frank Tiano	Uxbridge School Superintendent
Benn Sherman	Uxbridge DPW Director

**OTHERS IN ATTENDANCE:**

Jeanne Daley Uxbridge Police Department

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

It being 9:06 am, the meeting being properly posted, duly called and a quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by Chairman, Marc Montminy.

**II. OLD BUSINESS**

**A. Approval of Minutes:**

a.) August 18, 2020

**\*\*\* Motion by Steve Sette seconded by Tom Dion to approve the meeting minutes of August 18, 2020. Motion carried 3-0-1 abstain.**

**B. Key access to Town Property – Update.**

Chief reported that this project has been successfully completed – sent key to a manufacturer who had the ability to replicate. Received 15 keys last week. The keys will only be handed out to Benn at DPW, Chief Dion at the Fire Dept., and Chief Montminy at the Police Department.

**C. Potential Radio frequency access – update.**

Not much to report. PD received secured frequency. Donor of the frequency has removed himself from the FCC frequency site. Location of the new perspective antenna has been approved by Deputy Chief Trancrell. No new items on this issue.

**D. Cross Street – Update**

This will stay on for updates.



**E. Mary Cates – Solar speed sign on Linwood Ave.**

No one has heard from Mary Cates on this. Chief Montminy suggests traffic enforcement in this area.

**III. NEW BUSINESS**

**A. Peter Demers – Dead trees along roadways that impact safety, utilities and Public safety resources.**

Benn said they get no money for trees. They try to spend about \$20K and they don't have resources or expertise to do town wide program like National Grid. Steve Sette asked if there was 1 road in particular when we have a storm that causes problems with trees down and power outages. Tom Dion said it is pretty random and they fall all over. Steve asked "Last couple of storms, where were we effected more?"

Chief Montminy said Linwood Street lost power then there was one on N Main Street that took out power for a while.

Peter Demers could not be present for the meeting and submitted questions through an email to the committee. Benn Sherman answered the following questions that were asked.

**1. Who is responsible for the mitigation of dead trees adjacent to and/or overhanging public ways?**

Homeowner's would be responsible for ensuring the safety of surrounding property if they are doing the work or contracting work out.

**2. Can homeowners take down trees if it may include dropping a tree into a public way?**

On private property that would be the record owner. Within the public way/public spaces, that would be the Town.

**3. Should we identify dangerous trees and limbs and mitigate or just let them (eventually) fall to the ground?**

We add known locations that are reported from the public and those that we see.

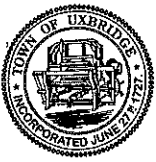
**4. Who can be held responsible if a dead tree falls into a public way and causes property damage or personal injury?**

Typically this is an "Act of God" unless there were prior records indicating the issue. This would be similar to a pothole, however I would need to confirm with MIIA on the liability end of things.

**5. How can we get the state involved to take care of dead trees along roadways under their jurisdiction?**

As mentioned above, we forward along this information directly to the District Maintenance Engineer (who then in turn sends the information to their dispatch)

**6. Can we work with the utilities to cut down dead trees impacting power/phone/cable lines?**



The DPW relies heavily NGRID when it comes to tree issues near and around power lines. NGRID by far takes care of most of our tree issues in town.

**7. Who is the Uxbridge tree warden and is that person addressing this problem?**

Be default I have been designated as the Tree Warden. The issue I have with this designation is the specific requirements that come along with Tree Warden. While you don't necessarily need to be a certified arborist, you certainly need some level of training with trees to do an effective job. This is the primary reason I confer with arborists at NGRID. The past few years, I have attempted to budget approximately \$25k for tree related work. We have averaged between \$25 – 30K on "reactionary" tree work in town. This is something that needs to be fully funded so we can move from the "reactive" mode to "proactive" mode. Another issue we are faced with is getting contractors to do the work in a timely fashion. Given the amount of work we are doing now, we are developing an annual bid, which unfortunately, will cost us more money due to compliance with prevailing wage requirements. Benn will reach out to Peter Demers for specific locations of trees he is questioning and Chief Montminy recommends Benn add this to his Data Base.

**B. Private Road Naming – Brookmeadow Lane and Taft Mill Lane.**

Taft and Mill Lane are not good. There are other streets that are too close or similar in name. Benn asked about the policy of using names from the list of veteran names? Public Safety Committee is to improve Public Safety elements. Tom Dion said over the radio his concern is distinguishing. Benn said Taft is too much confusion and Rockmeadow could be questionable. Chief Montminy said both were unacceptable and they do not meet with town guide lines for naming streets.

**\*\* Motion by Steve Sette and seconded by Marc Montminy to deny the request for naming of private Road names. All approved - Motion carried 5-0-0**

**C. Email – Ken Ethier – Signage N Main St.**

Any sign will deter people or the people will not pay attention to it. Mr. Kurzon – this is specific to motorcycle noise. He has asked that the police department stop and test all their exhausts for noise.

Chief said a sign would be ignored or amplify the problem and Benn agreed with him. Public Safety Members do not feel a sign will help and Chief Montminy doesn't feel this is in the Public Safety Committees realm of ability. It is an issue of noise and should be directed to the BOH.

**D. Tom Dion – 0 South Main St.**

Chief Montminy said an outdoor grow will be conducted by the river, across from the Post Office. Chief did go back on the property and there is an outdoor grow that is completed and you cannot see it because it is too far off the street. Tom Dion said the property is listed as 0 South Main Street and it makes no sense. Problem is South Main



Street ends where Millville Road starts. The owner is having problems with utilities. Chief asked how the committee changes the address. Who is responsible? Chief will send an email to Ken and Larry asking if it is possible to get new addresses = Solar Farm and Grow that are being referred to as 0 South Main St., but they are not near South Main St.

**E. Sept. 3<sup>rd</sup> email from Norm – barriers in roadway.**

This is a MASS DOT reclamation – They are replacing from Hazel St., north to intersection the southern end near Hannaford's. Benn said there is construction everywhere. Chief Montminy said there is only 1 complaint about construction noise and he does not know how to solve it. Benn said this project is continuous until late next year. Chief asked Benn to relay to construction crew about the noise.

**IV. Adjournment**

Meeting to adjourn 10:09 a.m.

Motion – Benn Sherman

Seconded – Tom Dion

Roll call taken all approved. Motion carried 5-0-0



*Minutes respectfully submitted by **Jeanne Daley**.  
Minutes approved by Public Safety Committee*

**Date Approved:** 10-20-2020

 (Signed for all)

**Marc Montminy, Chair**

**Benn Sherman**

**Tom Dion**

**Frank Tiano**

**Steve Sette**