

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
Joint Meeting with the Trustees of Soldiers Memorials

November 20, 2023

A joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials was called to order by Chairman Collins at 7:00 PM, Northbridge Town Hall, 7 Main Street, Whitinsville, MA. Board Members Present: Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus. Selectman Begin is absent and it is duly noted. Trustees of Soldiers Memorials Present: M. DeFazio, R. Trier, T. Farley and J. Manion. **Also Present:** Town Manager Adam D. Gaudette.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by those present.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None

PUBLIC HEARING/None

APPOINTMENTS: Joint appointment by the Board of Selectmen and the Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials/Kenneth Harrigan, Veteran. Mr. Trier explained that the appointment of Mr. Harrigan [Veteran] will make their Board whole. Mr. Harrigan stated that he has lived in Town for 25 years, has been a part of the Veterans Association since 2001, and he would like to help and be a part of the Trustees board. The Selectmen thanked Mr. Harrigan for his service in the Navy. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to appoint Kenneth Harrigan to the Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials Veterans position. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia, Paulhus, DeFazio, Trier, Farley and Manion.

By the Board of Selectmen: Nancy Hill, Northbridge Housing Authority/Present: Brett Lambert, Executive Director of the Northbridge Housing Authority. Mr. Lambert introduced Ms. Hill to the Board. Ms. Hill stated that she served before, loves the elderly, and is looking forward to being a part of the Housing Authority again. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to appoint Ms. Hill to the Northbridge Housing Authority. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None

2024 Selectmen's Meeting Schedule/Vote to approve. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the 2024 Selectmen's Meeting Schedule. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

2024 Holiday Schedule/Vote to approve. A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to approve the 2024 Holiday Schedule. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

Winter Parking Ban [1 AM – 6 AM, December 1, 2023 to April 1, 2024]/Vote to approve. A motion/Mr. Melia, seconded/Mr. Ampagoomian to approve the Winter Parking Ban as presented. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

Providence Road Development - Present: Steve O'Connell and Bill Renaud. Mr. O'Connell was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Town Manager Gaudette advised the audience that this has been presented and requested he review any changes that have been made. Mr. Renaud stated that the Christian School has showed some interest in doing something in the future to access entry to the road and they requested the parking lot be moved closer to the lot line, however, since that would put the parking lot in a wet area, it can't be done and it was kept where it was originally planned. Pointing to the map in the packet, Mr. Renaud explained that a portion of lots 1 & 4 will be used to compensate for what they would take from the Town property. By doing this, the town will get back as much as what was taken. Selectman Paulhus asked if the

parking lot on the bottom left of the map will be included. Mr. Renaud said that it will not be cheap to do that, but if they are going to sell it to the town they will need to do it. Selectman Melia noted that it is important to reiterate that the portion of land under discussion is not going to be used for anything with the exception of the small portion they plan to use. Mr. Renaud stated that they are going to use 5.1 acres and at a minimum the town is getting back 6 acres and there will not be anything on that land so it will be used for conservation land. Selectman Melia expressed that it was not stressed enough that the land was to remain conservation land. Mr. Renaud added that they are going to do some things before town meeting to let people know what it is and what they are getting out of it. He added that the taxes from the condos is money that will go back to the town. Selectman Melia asked about the income eligibility and that local employees would have first choice for the units – if it is allowed. Mr. Renaud indicated that it is a typical thing to do and added that with the Housing Production Plan that was done, the areas of need are senior housing, affordable housing and apartments. He stated that those needs would be covered. Selectman Ampagoomian expressed concern about the entrance coming into the condos. Mr. Renaud spoke to Mass Highway and was told that it needs to be restricted so the only way you can turn in is if you are coming from Plummers Corner and leaving you can only turn right. The next steps in the process are to go before the Planning Board and eventually prepare an article for zoning and an article for the selling of the property. Selectman Melia asked if this was going to be strictly residential. Mr. Renaud stated that Koopmans had talked about moving there in the very beginning of the project, but after looking at the space, it wouldn't work for them. Mr. Renaud also noted that the apartments are 4-story buildings with elevators.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS: **Selectman Melia/1)** asked about the banning of nips (mini alcohol bottles) as he was approached by a citizen. He asked about the process and how it would be handled and noted that he directed the individual to reach out to the Town Manager's Office. Town Manager Gaudette added that the individual did reach out and was instructed to get us the request in writing so we can do the research based off the details in that request. **2)** mentioned that on November 9, 2023, the Senior Center put together a Veterans' breakfast, which was sponsored by the Northbridge Police Association and Representative Muradian also made a generous donation as well. He thanked them both for their donations. **Selectman Ampagoomian** mentioned that there was also a Veterans' Spaghetti Supper at the Knights of Columbus, and he heard great feedback about the breakfast as well. **Selectman Paulhus/1)** thanked the local Knights of Columbus for donating 70 turkeys to families in need. **2)** thanked everyone involved with the pickleball courts project for their hard work and efforts, noting that despite the cold temps there has been a lot of use. **3)** announced that the Tree Lighting event is this weekend at the Town Common from 3 PM – 5 PM.

ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None

CORRESPONDENCE/None

EXECUTIVE SESSION/None

The next meeting is scheduled for December 4, 2023.

A motion/Mr. Ampagoomian, seconded/Mr. Melia to adjourn the meeting. Vote yes/Ampagoomian, Collins, Melia and Paulhus.

Meeting Adjourned: 7:31 PM

Respectfully submitted,

Thomas Begin, Clerk

/mjc

LIST OF DOCUMENTATION

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING - OPEN SESSION

November 20, 2023

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

- I. APPROVAL OF MINUTES/None**
- II. PUBLIC HEARING/None**
- III. APPOINTMENTS:**
 - A. Joint appointment by the Board of Selectmen and the Trustees of Soldiers' Memorials/Kenneth Harrigan, Veteran**
 - Copy of Talent Bank Form**
 - B. By the Board of Selectmen: Nancy Hill, Northbridge Housing Authority/Present: Brett Lambert, Executive Director of the Northbridge Housing Authority**
 - Copy of Talent Bank Form**
 - Copy of Charter**
- IV. CITIZENS' COMMENTS/INPUT/None**
- V. DECISIONS:**
 - C. 2024 Selectmen's Meeting Schedule/Vote to approve**
 - Copy of 2024 Selectmen's Meeting Schedule**
 - Copy of Calendar View**
 - D. 2024 Holiday Schedule/Vote to approve**
 - Copy of 2024 Holiday Schedule**
 - E. Winter Parking Ban [1 AM – 6 AM, December 1, 2023 to April 1, 2024]//Vote to approve**
 - Copy of memo**
- VI. DISCUSSIONS:**
 - F. Providence Road Development/Present: Steve O'Connell and Bill Renaud**
 - Copy of letter**
 - Copy of plan**
- VII. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT/None**
- VIII. SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS/None**
- IX. ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDA/None**
- X. CORRESPONDENCE/None**
- XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION/None**