



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

March 24, 2014

6:30 p.m.

Cotter Room

Members present: Mike Franey, Ken Coyle, Kevin Donovan, Andy Burbine, Tom Dion

- Pledge of Allegiance

Public Announcements:

- The Health Department needs volunteers for the compost site at 171 Groveland Street during the hours of 9:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. on Saturdays from May through November
- If you are interested in volunteering for the Charter Review Committee, please contact Town Moderator or the Town Manager's Office

6:30 p.m. – Jillian Logan – request to host the SGT Daniel Vasselian Memorial Road Race – Jillian requests a 5K road race in honor of SGT Daniel Vasselian on November 11, 2014. She has received approval from the Chief of Police.

M/Donovan to approve the road race

S/Dion

Voted 5-0

6:35 p.m. -- Jim Powers, Craig Peacock, Powers & Sullivan – FY2013 Audit Review – Craig Peacock provided a very thorough review of the Town's financial status by reviewing the Management Letter, the Report on examination of basic financial statements and the reports on Federal award programs for the year end June 30, 2013.

Action/Discussion items:

1. Approval of March 10, 2014 open session minutes.

M/Burbine to approve minutes

S/Coyle

Selectman Donovan abstains

Voted 4-0-1

2. Vote intent to layout the following roads as public ways, refer the layouts to the Planning Board, Adopt orders of layout, and file the layouts and plans with the Town Clerk at least seven full days prior to Town Meeting:

- Bradford Street
- Colantoni Way
- Jean Carol Road

M/Donovan to layout the above-mentioned roads as public ways, refer the layouts to the Planning Board, adopt orders of layout and file the layouts and plans with the Town Clerk at least seven full days prior to Town Meeting.

S/Dion

Selectman Burbine abstains due to concerns that Town Counsel had not issued a further opinion in response to the developer's attorney's correspondence with Town Counsel.

Voted 4-0-1

3. Renewal of Used Article and Pawn Broker Licenses –

M/Donovan to approve the licenses as presented pending receipt of all paperwork, up to date tax payments and inspections. (attached)

S/Dion

Voted 5-0

4. Update on restoration of the Island Grove Memorial Arch – Town Manager provided the Board with an update of the Memorial Arch Restoration (attached)

5. Town Manager Report – Town Manager provided the Board with a General Update. (attached)

6. Public Comment – Selectman Burbine stated that one of the reasons he had voted to abstain in the road acceptance also had to do with the fact that the Town Moderator is representing the developer of the subdivision involved. Selectman Burbine stated further that the policy on special municipal employee status was adopted for instances such as this so that an elected official who has a duty of loyalty to the town isn't also representing a client before a town board. In this instance the Moderator will in all likelihood go even further by stepping down as Town Moderator when the road approval is taken up at town meeting to represent the developer for the approval of the road at town meeting. In Selectman Burbine's opinion this is wrong and he needed to state it publicly.

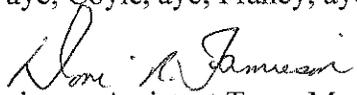
M/Burbine to enter into executive session for the purposes of strategies pertaining to collective bargaining with the Clerical Union, Manager's Association and the Police Union and not to reconvene to open session

S/Donovan

Dion, aye; Burbine, aye; Donovan, aye; Coyle, aye; Franey, aye

Voted 5-0

Meeting adjourned: 7:55 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  Doris R. Jamieson, Assistant Town Manager

PLEASE VOTE TO APPROVE THE FOLLOWING LICENSES PENDING RECEIPT OF ALL PAPERWORK, UP TO DATE TAX PAYMENTS AND INSPECTIONS.

USED ARTICLES	Exp. 3/31/2014		
Hope Thrift Store	Nerys Ortiz	1195C Bedford Street	
Susie's Selections	Sue Cordeiro	1501 Bedford Street	
Olde Abington Country Store	Lisa & John Curtin	1148 Bedford Street	
Linda's Consignment Boutique	Linda Kiernan	171 Brockton Avenue	CLOSED
Electric Planet	Oscar Margaca	1347 Washington St.	
Passion for Fashion	Lisa Cramer	170 Bedford Street	
The Eclectic Collection	Howard Dempsey	714 Bedford Street	
déjà vu Home Thrift Shop LLC	Kristin Browning & Laurie Jakaitis	27 Brockton Avenue	
ABC Tech Squad	Bill Dessaps	201 N. Quincy Street	
The Designer Diva	Jason Harris	564 Washington Street	
PAWN BROKER			
ABC Tech Squad	Bill Dessaps	201 N. Quincy Street	



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

To: Board of Selectmen
From: Town Manager
Date: March 21, 2014
Subj: Memorial Arch Restoration

Recently my office opened our second round of bids for the masonry and bronze restoration of the Memorial Arch at Island Grove. The low bidder has included conditions that are not compliant with the RFP. The second low bid is approximately the same as the bids that were submitted in our initial procurement effort. While I do not know what caused the town to determine the amount that was appropriated for the project, it is clear that the town will not achieve the restoration of the masonry and the bronze within the current appropriation. Be aware that we have already received a small grant for \$5,000 to assist with this project and we have recently submitted another grant application for \$30,000 to help with the bronze work.

In that the masonry and bronze restoration are separate and distinct phases of the project – and have been bid separately, I would recommend that we move forward with the masonry phase for which we do have enough funds available in the current appropriation from the town. In the meantime we will continue to seek additional funds. For instance, the Tri-centennial committee has approached us to suggest that their remaining funds (approximately \$25,000 - \$30,000) be used to offset the cost of the project. These funds, in addition to the town's appropriation, are significant in demonstrating local support in seeking further grant opportunities.

The worst case scenario at this point is that we need to seek further town meeting borrowing authorization (or appropriation of available funds) for another \$25,000 - \$30,000 if we are unable to secure grant funding to cover the remaining estimated costs. While this is not an ideal situation, I believe that we should move forward with the masonry piece with the small risk that the bronze work may require further town meeting action.

While I don't believe that I need a specific vote of the Board I want everybody to understand the current situation and be supportive with us moving forward with the masonry bid/contract.



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

TO: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FROM: TOWN MANAGER
DATE: March 21, 2014
SUBJ: GENERAL UPDATE

The following is meant to be a general update of activities of the Town Manager and staff. Should any member desire more information regarding any particular matter please contact me personally.

1. Financial – The FINCOM has completed meeting with departments and is meeting with article proponents. I have provided a draft preliminary FY 2015 proposal to our Financial Management group for consultation and will be providing a proposal for deliberation the week after next. The problem at hand is that there is the need to reduce approximately \$1.8 million from proposed budgets – including a substantial amount from a level service budget to achieve what amounts to a budget that barely exceeds the current fiscal year bottom line dollar budget. Key factors that impact the FY 2015 budget are:
 - A. The fact that over \$500,000 from stabilization was used in FY 14 to balance the budget and is currently not being considered for FY 15;
 - B. The South Shore Vo-Tech Assessment for FY 15 is currently being projected at an increase of \$283,000 for Abington;
 - C. The town’s Pension Assessment has increased by approximately \$180,000;
 - D. Virtually no additional local aid from the current fiscal year.

Just these 3 factors alone more than offset additional, recurring revenue available through taxation leaving any fixed personnel and expense increases to be absorbed elsewhere – resulting in projected budget/service reductions.

2. Veteran’s Service District – The Abington/Whitman application has been submitted to the Dept. of Veterans Affairs and we expect a very timely response so that we can move forward in setting up our administrative structure. I have previously forwarded information regarding this to the Board. If anyone should need additional information please feel free to contact me.
3. Landfill Closure update - Steven Wright, consulting engineer with Kleinfelder, has been moved to our next meeting. In the meantime the Comprehensive Site Assessment has been submitted to DEP. You will recall that I have previously forwarded you summary information regarding the same for your consideration and discussion when Mr. Wright joins us.
4. Park & Recreation – I have met with, and am working with the Park and Recreation Commission to get set up for the coming season. Unfortunately it appears that this function has been somewhat unsettled the past year due to the status of the vacant supt. position and limited resources. The P & R Commissioners have discussed the need for field maintenance fees (and have taken a vote to discontinue those fees) and I am working to get them necessary financial information to take appropriate action as the season(s) get underway. In my opinion the need for field maintenance fees still remains but the informal “merger” of the Highway and P&R activities has caused some questions regarding the need to continue these fees. At this point it appears to me that we need to deal with the short term challenge of organizing for the upcoming spring/summer activities before we think more in terms of a permanent organizational model.