



Town of Abington #1

OFFICE OF
TOWN MANAGER
500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351
(781) 982-2100
FAX (781) 982-2138

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
April 25, 2016
Cotter Room
6:30 p.m.

Members present: Mike Franey, Andy Burbine, Ken Coyle, Alex Bezanson

- Pledge of Allegiance
- Moment of Silence – Dorothy Damon (attached)

Public Announcements:

- Selectman Burbine read a proclamation from the Board of Selectmen for Mike Franey for his years of service to the Town, who is not running for re-election, and this is his last meeting.

Mr. Bob Fowkes, District Director for Congressman Lynch presented Chairman Franey with a proclamation and a flag that was flown over the Capitol.

Chairman Franey thanked his many family members present, and thanked his fellow Board members and the Administration.

- Selectman Burbine announced the names of the 4H girls who worked at “anything with a plug” day, even in inclement weather. Chairman presented each girl with an envelope and thanked them for their service.

Action/Discussion items:

1. Approval of March 28, 2016 open session minutes
M/Coyle to approve
S/Bezanson
Burbine abstains
Voted 3-0-1

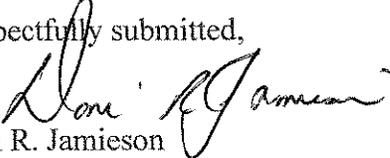
Approval of March 31, 2016 open session minutes
M/Burbine to approve
S/Coyle
Voted 4-0

2. Discussion on flagging the bordering vegetated wetlands on Griffin's Farm property. Town Manager read the Wheatley Company's proposal (attached). Selectman Bezanson suggests beginning at Pattison Street to get the ball rolling, and then have the entire parcel flagged to match a plan for the entire parcel. Town Manager to approach Conservation Commission to begin the process.
3. Discussion on placing a demolition article on the Town Meeting Warrant for the West Abington Hall
M/Bezanson to place this article on the Town Meeting Warrant
S/Burbine
Coyle, no
Voted 3-1
4. Discussion on placing an article on the Town Meeting Warrant to declare a parcel of land on Chestnut Street surplus for disposition to the Department of Conservation and Recreation.
Selectman Burbine would prefer to wait until the office receives a written proposal, and take it up on the next agenda where they will be discussing the warrant anyway.
5. FY2017 budget update – Town Manager stated the Finance Committee has ended its meetings with Department Heads. The new House State aid number puts us in a better position and using an amount of free cash to cover the snow deficit would lower the current FY2017 deficit substantially. Town Manager will have a balanced budget within the next coming week.
6. Town Manager Report (attached)
7. Public Comment: none

M/Burbine to adjourn
S/Bezanson
Voted 4-0

Meeting adjourned: 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,


Dori R. Jamieson
Assistant Town Manager

Moment of Silence

Please rise for the Pledge of Allegiance and remain standing for a moment of silence for Dorothy Damon, who recently passed away at age 102. Dorothy was a longtime clerk at the former RIP's Wholesale Company in Abington, an active member of the United Church of Christ in Abington, and a long-time member of the Abington Council on Aging. Dorothy will be deeply missed by her loving family



#2

TEL: (781) 871-2428
FAX: (781) 878-3159

The Russell A. Wheatley Co., Inc.

REGISTERED LAND SURVEYORS AND ENGINEERS

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APR 19 2016

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF ABINGTON

APRIL 15, 2016

Abington Town Hall
500 Gliniewicz Way
Abington, MA 02351

Attn: Mr. Richard LaFond
Town Manager

Dear Richard,

Thank you for the opportunity to give you an estimate as per our phone conversation on April 13, 2016 of the Griffins Farm property, on Plymouth Street and Patterson Street, Abington, MA.

Upon review of the information we have at our office and a conversation I had with Brooke Monroe, Botanist, Pinebrook Consulting, I have calculated the following estimate:

1. For flagging the bordering vegetated wetlands on the **entire** Griffins Farm property, locating, Plotting and drafting a plan of the limits of bordering vegetated wetlands to present to you, the price would be \$3,695.00
2. For flagging the bordering vegetated wetland on a **portion** of Griffins Farm property along Patterson Avenue and locating, plotting and drafting a plan to show the limits of bordering vegetated wetlands to present to you, the price would be \$1,585.00.

Again I want to thank you for the opportunity of presenting an estimate on this project.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call.

Sincerely,

Russell A. Wheatley

#6



Town of Abington

500 GLINIEWICZ WAY
ABINGTON, MA 02351

TO: BOARD OF SELECTMEN
FROM: TOWN MANAGER
DATE: APRIL 22, 2016
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. Community Compact application – This past Thursday Lt. Governor Karyn Polito and Mike Franey signed our Community Compact approving as a “model best practice” the Board’s goal of re-establishing a Business Association/Council. We hosted our neighbors in Whitman and Hanover in doing the same. Sen. Keenan and Rep’s Diehl and Brady also attended as well as representatives of OCPC who are also providing technical assistance. A copy of the CC is attached. Because we are now a CC community we are also able to seek technical assistance to pursue other approved best-practices approved in other towns. Based upon the assessment of our needs the areas of regionalization and financial forecasting are added to our Community Compact. Although this is a new initiative by the Baker Administration the form and substance of the technical support is still being developed, however, it does have universal support from the legislature.
2. Electricity Aggregation – This project organized through Old Colony Planning Council has now resulted in the selection of an “Aggregator”, Colonial Power Group, who has been selected to work with the participating communities to combine residential and business purchasing power to help reduce the cost, and spikes, in electricity costs. I have asked representatives of Colonial Power Group to be available at the Board of Selectmen meeting on May 23 to discuss the legislative action allowing aggregation and the plan(s) for moving forward – and to answer any questions the Board may have.
3. FY 2017 Budget Process – As of this past Wednesday the Finance Committee has concluded its meeting with departments pertaining to budget requests for FY 2017. Our finance team has continued to meet and in very close coordination with the School Supt. and Asst. Supt. it is my goal to provide a final budget recommendation the first week of May. This has been a difficult process but the approved House budget did help a bit – not so much in terms of additional revenue, but when balanced with the resulting proposed cherry sheet assessments it does provide additional available revenue beyond the Governor’s initial budget proposal.

4. Southfield Zoning Proposal – Proposed zoning changes for Abington were submitted the end of March. After consulting with the Chairman of the Planning Board we solicited a quote from their consulting engineer to review the proposal. As you know the Planning Board is responsible for providing a recommendation to the town meeting on all proposed zoning amendments. We have not yet received the quote but expect it any day now. Unfortunately it is unclear at this point if the Planning Board will have the time to review this proposal in a timely and thorough manner in order to make a recommendation by our June 6 town meeting. Mike Franey and I have met with the representatives of Southfield and they have agreed to pay for the required technical assistance. I will keep you updated as this progresses.

5. Town Hall/Library Parking signs – You may notice that there are “No Parking” signs set up around the perimeter of the town hall and library parking lots. This has been done at the request of the Fire Chief due to the volume of vehicles and the parking practices of many residents over the past couple of weekends. The Chief has been very concerned as to the ability of the fire department to get an ambulance or larger apparatus into the area if necessary. It is anticipated that these will be temporary and that the need will diminish as the school construction project moves ahead and more parking becomes available.