

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

May 16, 2023

Chair Brett Simas; Select member Maureen Dwinnell; Select member Laura Hebb; Town Manager Joseph Laydon; Executive Assistant Sandra Hakala.

1 CALL MEETING TO ORDER/ PLEDGE OF ALEGENCE

2 Chair Simas opened the regular meeting at 7:00 PM.

3

4 REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD

5 Chair Simas asks for a motion to appoint Executive Assistant, Sandra Hakala, as temporary Chair
6 for the purpose of reorganization of the Board.

7

8 **Motion #1:** Member Dwinnell motioned to appoint Executive Assistant Sandra Hakala as
9 temporary Chair for the purpose of reorganizing the Board of Selectmen.

10

11 Second: Member Hebb, Unanimous Member Simas.

12

13 Temporary Chair Hakala opens the nominations for Chair of the Board of Selectmen and asked
14 if there are any nominations.

15

16 **Motion # 2:** Member Hebb motioned to nominate Maureen Dwinnell, Chair of the Board of
17 Selectmen.

18

19 Temporary Chair Hakala, asks if there are any other nominations.

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21 Hearing none, Temporary Chair Hakala then closes nominations.

22

23 Temporary Chair Hakala states there is a motion and second of the floor to nominate Select
24 member Dwinnell as Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Motion seconded by Select member
25 Simas.

26

27 Hebb aye, Simas aye, Dwinnell aye.

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29 **Motion # 3:** Chair Dwinnell motioned to rescind the former motion appointing Executive
30 Assistant Sandra Hakala as Temporary Chair for the purpose of reorganizing the Board.

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32 Second: Member Hebb, Unanimous Member Simas.

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34 Chair Dwinnell thanks Mr. Simas for his service to the Town and returns to regular business of
35 the Board of Selectmen.

36

37 **DEPARTMENT/BOARD UPDATES AND REQUESTS**

38 **Maple Ave Sidewalk Project – Scope of Work and ARPA Commitment – DPW Director**

39 The town manager reviewed a memorandum dated April 13, 2023 prepared by Tighe & Bond
40 for providing engineering, permitting, and design services for the Maple Ave Sidewalk Project.
41 Work includes natural resource area delineation, survey and base plan development,
42 preparation of preliminary designs, environmental permitting, right of way services, and final
43 plans, and construction costs.

44
45 The Maple Ave Sidewalk Project was discussed by the Board of Selectmen at its April 18, 2023
46 meeting.

47
48 **Brett Simas MOVED** the Board of Selectmen vote to authorize up to \$280,000, from the Town's
49 APRA allocation, to engage Tighe & Bond for engineering, permitting, and design services for
50 the Maple Ave Sidewalk Project as proposed in the April 13, 2023, memorandum.

51 The motion was not seconded.

52
53 **Site Eligibility for 40B at 45-51 Main Street, Lobisser Building Corp, Applicant – Director of
Land Use & Inspectional**

54 The Board reviewed an email and letter from Katherine Miller with MassHousing providing
55 notice to the Town of Upton of the submission of a site eligibility application for a 68-unit rental
56 housing project located at 45-51 Main Street. The application was submitted by Lobisser
57 Building Corp.

58 The site approval process is one of the first steps in the submission of a Comprehensive Permit
59 under Chapter 40B. A site visit is scheduled for Friday, May 19th. The Town has an opportunity
60 to provide comments on the application and the deadline for rescript of comments is Thursday,
61 June 8, 2023.

62 Director of Land Use & Inspectional Services Michael Antonellis discussed the process with the
63 Board and will be coordinating department reviews for the Board to consider at its June 6, 2023
64 meeting to finalize a letter to MassHousing.

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69

- 70 • MassHousing Project Eligibility
- 71 • MGL Chapter 40B – provides for the Comprehensive Permit process that allows
- 72 applicants to file for approval with the local Zoning Board of Appeals if a town has less
- 73 than 10% of its housing stock formally dedicated as “low to moderate income housing”
- 74 or “affordable housing.”
- 75 ○ Per DHCD as of March 9 the town has 6.7%. that's 189 units out of the required
- 76 282. A deficit of 93 units as of the 2010 census.

- 2,995 total housing units per 2020 Decennial Census. That's a deficit of 111.
- Received notice from MassHousing letter dated May 9
- The applicant is undergoing the Site Approval process in order to receive "project eligibility" determination from MassHousing.
 - To receive project eligibility:
 - (a) The Applicant shall be a public agency, a nonprofit organization, or a Limited Dividend Organization.
 - (b) The Project shall be fundable by a Subsidizing Agency under a Low- or Moderate-Income Housing subsidy program; and
 - (c) The Applicant shall control the site.
- Site Eligibility application contains the following elements:
 - (a) **the name and address of the Applicant.**
 - (b) **the address of the site and site description.**
 - (c) **a locus map** identifying the site within a plan of the neighborhood, accompanied by photographs of the surrounding buildings and features that provide an understanding of the physical context of the site.
 - (d) **a tabulation of proposed buildings** with the approximate number, size (number of bedrooms, floor area), and type (ownership or rental) of housing units proposed.
 - (e) **the name of the housing program** under which Project Eligibility is sought.
 - (f) **relevant details of the particular Project** if not mandated by the housing program (including percentage of units for low- or moderate-income households, income eligibility standards, the duration of restrictions requiring Low- or Moderate-Income Housing, and the limited dividend status of the Applicant); 760 CMR: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT 56.04: continued
 - (g) **conceptual design drawings of the site plan and exterior elevations** of the proposed buildings, along with a summary showing the approximate percentage of the tract to be occupied by buildings, by parking and other paved vehicular areas, and by open areas, the approximate number of parking spaces, and the ratio of parking spaces to housing units.
 - (h) **a narrative description of the approach to building massing**, the relationships to adjacent properties, and the proposed exterior building materials.
 - (i) **a tabular analysis comparing existing zoning requirements to the Waivers requested for the Project;** and
 - (j) **evidence of control of the site.** In the case of a Local Initiative Project (LIP), the application shall be submitted by the Chief Executive Officer of the Municipality.
- The project as proposed will contain 68 apartment unit.

117 • The town is now within the Review and Comment process, by which we have 30 days to
118 respond with comments. During which time a site visit has been scheduled pursuant to
119 760 CMR 56.04 (3) which can include local boards and staff.

120

121 • The town has until **June 8** to provide comments back to MassHousing.

122

123 • Until that time MassHousing can receive comments from local boards, usually in the
124 form of a letter by the BOS, and by “other interested parties”;

125

126 • Project Eligibility to produce findings.

127

128 (a) **that the proposed Project appears generally eligible under the requirements of the**
129 **housing subsidy program, subject to final approval under 760 CMR 56.04(7).**

130 (b) **that the site of the proposed Project is generally appropriate for residential**
131 **development**, taking into consideration information provided by the municipality or
132 other parties regarding municipal actions previously taken to meet affordable
133 housing needs, such as inclusionary zoning, multifamily districts adopted under
134 M.G.L. c. 40A, and overlay districts adopted under M.G.L. c. 40R (such finding, with
135 supporting reasoning, to be set forth in reasonable detail);

136 (c) **that the conceptual project design is generally appropriate for the site on which it**
137 **is located**, taking into consideration factors that may include proposed use,
138 conceptual site plan and building massing, topography, environmental resources,
139 and integration into existing development patterns (such finding, with supporting
140 reasoning, to be set forth in reasonable detail);

141 (d) **that the proposed Project appears financially feasible** within the housing market in
142 which it will be situated (based on comparable rentals or sales figures);

143 (e) **that an initial pro forma has been reviewed**, including a land valuation
144 determination consistent with the Department’s guidelines, and the Project appears
145 financially feasible and consistent with the Department’s guidelines for Cost
146 Examination and Limitations on Profits and Distributions (if applicable) on the basis
147 of estimated development costs.

148 (f) **that the Applicant is a public agency, a non-profit organization, or a Limited**
149 **Dividend Organization**, and it meets the general eligibility standards of the housing
150 program; and

151 (g) **that the Applicant controls the site**, based on evidence that the Applicant or a
152 related entity owns the site, or holds an option or contract to acquire such interest
153 in the site, or has such other interest in the site as is deemed by the Subsidizing
154 Agency to be sufficient to control the site. The Subsidizing Agency shall provide
155 copies of its written determination of Project Eligibility to the Department, the Chief
156 Executive Officer of the municipality, and the Board.

157

158 ● Assuming MassHousing makes positive findings, they will issue a Project Eligibility letter
159 which the developer will use to file a local Comprehensive Permit.

160 ○ Upon receipt of the local application, all local board will be notified and provided
161 the opportunity to comment to the ZBA.

162 ○ The local Comprehensive Permit is like any other public hearing process except
163 that the ZBA provide a one-stop for all local board approvals.

164 ○ The ZBA will notify abutters of the application and advertise in local paper noting
165 date and time of the meeting.

166 ○ The ZBA will conduct public hearings through its decision. Assuming an approval
167 the applicant will work with MassHousing to obtain Final Approval, which is
168 basically a reaffirmation of all their previous application findings.

169

170 Many residents were in attendance to voice their concerns regarding the project and the
171 impact on the community.

172

173 **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE AND DISCUSSION**

174 Rep. David Muradian and Sen Ryan Fattman updated the Board on the State's budget.

175

176 **MassWorks Grant Submission Authorization - Director of Land Use & Inspectional Services**

177 On October 26, 2022, Governor Charlie Baker announced \$100 Million in grant awards to 60
178 communities to fund economic development projects across the state. The Town of Upton
179 received \$275,000 to extend water and sewer infrastructure from Upton Center east along
180 Route 140 to support mixed use and commercial development.

181

182 The funds received under the MassWorks Grant have allowed the Town Upton to start the
183 engineering and design work associated with the extension of water and sewer infrastructure
184 east from Upton Town Center along Route 140. Staff, the developer, and our engineering
185 consultants are working to prepare 25% design plans to submit as part of a new MassWorks
186 grant application to pay for construction of the roadway, water, and sewer improvements.

187

188 **Brett Simas MOVED** the Board vote to authorize the Town Manager to apply for funding under
189 the One Stop for Growth - MassWorks Grant Program for the construction of roadway, water,
190 and sewer improvements in Milford Street.

191 **Second: Member Hebb, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell.**

192

193 **Lindquist/Maloney APR Document Signatures and Notarization – Town Manager**

194 Passed over.

195

196 **TOWN MANAGER REPORT/ UPDATE**

197 The following is the Town Manager's Report for the May 16, 2023 Board of Selectmen Meeting.

198 Town Website Redesign – A staff committee met to finalize layout and color template of mock
199 pages. Work is ongoing. This month staff will be working with EDC on an Economic
200 Development focused page.

201
202 Town Hall Bathrooms – Replacement of toilet fixtures is complete. No issues have been
203 observed since repair. Staff are awaiting quotes for hand drier units so the next phase of the
204 repairs can be conducted.

205
206 Electrical Aggregation - The Town of Upton is continuing its work to finalize its electric
207 aggregation program but currently it is not available. Colonial Power, our aggregation
208 consultant, was recently contacted and they stated there has been no update from the State on
209 the status of our aggregation plan.

210
211 Risteen Building Ramp - Handicap ramp and access hardware has been installed. Next step of
212 the project is to restripe the parking lot due to change in configuration.

213
214 Massachusetts Office of Disability Grant/ ADA Improvements – Town Hall ADA work has been
215 completed. Work is progressing on Police and Fire Station Doors.

216
217 Housing Production Plan – Work continues the Housing Production Plan. The next meeting is
218 scheduled for May 18th. Discussion of goals and strategies for affordable housing and possible
219 locations is on the agenda.

220
221 DPW – Line painting has been completed. Street Sealcoating is occurring this week. Hydrant
222 flushing is occurring this month and will end May 31st.

223
224 Economic Development Earmark – In December 2022 the Town received a \$125,000 earmark to
225 support economic development initiatives of the Town. EDC recently met and is working on
226 preparing a priority list of projects to review with the Board of Selectmen at an upcoming
227 meeting in June. Once the Board of Selectmen approves a final list of projects, the Town and
228 State will execute a contract to access the funds.

229
230 Route 140 – Main Street Improvement Project – Staff recently attended a working session with
231 MassDOT staff and engineers to review concepts for reintroducing parking within the Upton
232 Center area. Initial concepts included having parking on one side of the road and a bike lane on
233 the other. Staff and highway officials will be scheduling another working session to review
234 comments.

235
236 Municipal Fiber Network Project – On June 2, 2022, the Town of Upton received \$237,500 to
237 connect various town and school facilities under the first year of the Municipal Fiber Grant
238 program. While the contract was executed in mid-2022 but due to supply constraints, the

239 contractor only recently received material to start the project. The work is scheduled to start
240 tomorrow, May 17th.

241

242 Kids@Play – Registration is Now Open Visit Town of Upton Recreation Website for more
243 information.

244

245 **APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

246 **Acceptance of Resignation from Affordable Housing Trust**

247 **Brett Simas MOVED** the Board of Selectmen vote to accept the resignation of Traci Higgins
248 from the Affordable Housing Trust, with regrets.

249 **Second: Member Hebb, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell**

250

251 **DPW Building Committee Appointments**

252 **Laura Hebb MOVED** the Board of Selectmen vote to appoint Paul Flaherty as members DPW
253 Building Committee for a term to expire upon the completion of the building project or the
254 dissolution of the committees by the Board of Selectmen.”

255 **Second: Member Simas, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell**

256

257 **BOARD OF SELECTMEN DISCUSSION**

258 **MUEF Spooky Run 5K - Road Race Application – Mendon-Upton Education Foundation**

259 **Laura Hebb MOVED** the Select Board vote to approve the road race application submitted by
260 the Mendon-Upton Education Foundation to be held on Sunday, October 29, 2023 at 10:00 am.

261 **Second: Member Simas, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell**

262

263 **Execution of Classification and Compensation Plan Update**

264 Following the approval of Article 32 – Classification and Compensation Plan Update, the Town
265 Manager and HR Director are seeking to start work. They sought proposals for the update and
266 have selected GovHR for the work. The Town Manager is working to finalize the contract using
267 the Town’s standard contract form. A draft contract will be distributed to the Board on
268 Monday.

269

270 This item is being brought before the Board because under the Town of Upton Town Manager
271 Act, contracts over \$25,000 must first be approved by the Board of Selectmen.

272

273 **Brett Simas MOVED** the Board of Selectmen vote to authorize the Town Manager to finalize
274 and execute a contract with GovHR for the update of the Classification and Compensation Plan.

275 **Second: Member Hebb, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell**

276

277 **Board Meeting Schedule**

278 The Board of Selectmen typically meets the 1st and third Tuesday of the month. The Board did
279 vote to schedule regular meetings on June 6th and June 20th.

280 Due to July 4th falling on our regular meeting date, and staff vacations, the town manager
281 proposed shifting the meetings.

282

283 The town manager suggested a workshop meeting be set up to discuss goals for the upcoming
284 year, but that does not need to be on a regular meeting date.

285

286 **Brett Simas MOVED** the Board vote to schedule regular meetings for July 11, 25, August 22,
287 September 5, 19, 2023.

288 **Second: Member Hebb, Unanimous Chair Dwinnell**

289

290 **MINUTES**

291 **Brett Simas MOVED** to approve the regular session meeting minutes of May 2, 2023.

292 **Second: Chair Dwinnell, Majority Action.**

293

294 **ADJOURNMENT**

295 **Laura Hebb MOVED** to adjourn the meeting of May 16, 2023, at 8:20PM.

296 **Second: Select Member Simas, Unanimous, Chair Dwinnell.**

297

298 **Laura Hebb MOVED** to rescind the motion to adjourn the meeting.

299 **Second: Select Member Simas, Unanimous, Chair Dwinnell.**

300

301 **PUBLIC INPUT**

302 Tom Bair presented to the Board ways in which the Risteen Building could be utilized by the
303 Historical Society.

304

305 **ADJOURNMENT**

306 **Laura Hebb MOVED** to adjourn the meeting of May 16, 2023, at 8:40 PM.

307 **Second: Select Member Simas, Unanimous, Chair Dwinnell.**

308

309 Respectfully submitted,

310 Sandra Hakala, Executive Assistant